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THE

NATURALIST's POCKET MAGAZINE;

OR,

COMPLEAT CABINET

OF THE

CURIOSITIES AND BEAUTIES

OF

NATURE.

CONTAINING,

ELEGANT COLOURED PRINTS

OF

BIRDS,	INSECTS,
FISHES,	QUADRUPEDS,
FLOWERS,	SHELLS,

AND OTHER NATURAL PRODUCTIONS.

WITH

DESCRIPTIONS.

VOL. VII.

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VOL. VII.

Lanthorn-

REIN DEER.

REIN-DEER.

THE Rein-Deer, or Cervus Tarandus of Linnæus, is a much celebrated animal, almost equally approaching the Elk and the Stag. Buffon, who calls it the Renne, even ventures to describe it in the same article with the Elk. It is the Tarandus, of Pliny, and of Aldrovandus; the Cervus Mirabilis, of Johnston, the Rangifer, of Gesner; the Cervus Rangifer, of Ray; and the Rein-Deer, of most English naturalists. In French, it is called the Rangier, the Ranglier, or the Renne; in Latin, Tarandus; in the Norwegian language, Rehen; in Lapland, Boetroi; in Germany, Reenthier; in Sweden, Rhen; in Canada, Caribou; and, in modern Latin, Rangifer.

Though the Rein-Deer is found in the northern parts of Asia and America, as well as of Europe, it's chief residence appears to be in Lapland; where it supplies the place of our three valuable domestic animals, the Horse, the Cow, and the Sheep, and forms the principal wealth of the inhabitants. Mr. Pennant says,

that

that "it inhabits farther North than any other hoofed quadruped;" that, "in America, it is found in Spitsbergen and Greenland, but not farther South than Canada;" and, that it inhabits, "in Asia, the North Coast as far as Kamtschatka, and the inland parts as low as Siberia:" that "it is found in all these places, in a state of nature; but is domesticated only by the Laplanders, Samoides, and Kamtschatkans." When carried to any other climate, these animals soon die.

The horns of the Rein-Deer are it's most striking characteristic; but they vary so much more than in any other animal, with regard to form and extent, according to age, and other circumstances, that they frequently appear, at first sight, to belong to different species. The horns of the young, and of the middle-aged animals, are remarkable for their slender form, in proportion to the length; but, as they advance in years, their horns acquire a stronger appearance, as represented in the annexed figure of the Male, which was first published by Gesner, and is pronounced to be a good representation, by no less a judge than Linnæus.

Both

Both sexes are furnished with horns, but those of the Female are of very inferior magnitude. Both shed their horns annually: the Male, immediately after the rutting season, about the end of November; but the Female, not till the middle of May, when she drops her Fawns. It is remarkable, that the castrated Males, seldom lose their horns till they are nine years old.

The extreme height of the Rein-Deer is not more than four feet and a half; and, frequently, not so much. The general colour on the upper part of the body, is a brown ash-colour, growing gradually lighter with age, till at last it becomes a greyish white. The space round the mouth, all the under parts of the body, and the tail, are white. The space round the eyes is always black. The fur is very thick; and the hair on the neck, which is of much greater length than the rest, forms a sort of pendant beard. The tail is very short. The hoofs, and false hoofs behind, are large and black; and, by their collision, when the animal is running, they make a remarkable

markable clatter, which is heard at a great distance.

The Rein-Deer does not gallop, but has a rapid running pace: and, when hard pushed, will travel in a sledge between fifty and sixty miles at a stretch; but frequently, after such excessive fatigue, dies within a few days, if not previously killed by it's owner. In general, they can go about thirty miles without resting.

The Rein-Deer sledge of the Laplanders, is a light vehicle, covered at the bottom with the skin of a young animal, having the hair turned outwards to slide on the frozen snow. The traveller, sitting on the sledge, guides the Rein-Deer by means of a cord fastened round it's horns; and impels it forward with a goad, when his voice proves insufficient: just as a Horse is directed and driven with the reins, and a whip. The harness is very simple; being only a strap cut out of a Rein-Deer's skin, with the hair on, which goes round the neck, and passes between the legs, to be fastened to the sledge.

The

The uncastrated Males being fierce, and very difficult to manage, are not used for labour: one of these is kept to every five or six Females. The most active and nimble geldings are selected to draw the sledges of travellers, and the heaviest are employed in carrying provisions and baggage. Their chief food, in winter, is a species of Lichen, or Liver-Wort, called Lichen Rangiferinus, or the Rein-Deer Liver-Wort, or Moss, which covers vast tracts of the northen regions: and, as this lies far beneath the snow, they dig with their feet, and palmated brow-antlers, till they arrive at their favourite food. They browze, in summer, on various other vegetable substances.

The Laplanders, who present the singularity of a pastoral people living in even the frozen limits of the Arctic circle, almost equally strangers to commerce, and the sanguinary conflicts which it so often occasions, frequently possess a herd of a thousand Rein-Deer: even the poorest, have generally a small flock of these useful animals. They house, and nurture them, during the rigours of their long winter; and, in summer, lead them to the tops of

of their salubrious mountains, and by the borders of their lucid streams.

Pennant observes that, "in Autumn, the Rein-Deers seek the highest hills, to avoid the Lapland Gadfly, or Œstrus Tarandi; which, at that time, deposits it's eggs in their skins, and is the pest of these animals, for numbers die that are thus visited. The moment a single Fly appears, the whole herd instantly perceives it; they fling up their heads, toss about their horns, and at once attempt to fly for shelter amidst the snows on the loftiest Alps."

These valuable animals live, in a domestic state, about sixteen years. The Female goes thirty-three weeks with young, and frequently brings forth twins. The milk supplies the Laplander with cheese: but it is said to be incapable of making butter; as, when churned, it produces only suet. The flesh is used for food, and the skin for cloathing. The tendons make bow-strings; and, when split, thread: the horns, glue; and the bones, spoons. The Samojedes use the skins for sails.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER.

THIS bird is the Tringa Maculata, of Linnæus; the Turdus Aquaticus, or Water-Thrush, of Brisson, and of Buffon; the Spotted Tringa, of Edwards; and the Spotted Sandpiper, of Pennant, Latham, &c. As the Tringa is, in fact, the Sandpiper, we have not, on this occasion, adopted the name of Edwards with his figure.

The bird represented was shot near Philadelphia, by Mr. Bartram; who sent it to Edwards, and informed him that these birds come to Pennsylvania, from the South, in April, and continue there the greatest part of the summer. Mr. Bartram also shot a Hen bird, which he opened, and found in her pretty large eggs: "but," says Edwards, "by accident, he lost the Hen; so that the bird he sent me is the Cock."

Edwards's description is as follows—"The bill is straight; dusky towards the point, and flesh-

coloured at it's base: the upper mandible is channelled on each side. The nostrils are long. It has a white line above the eye. The head, upper side of the neck, back, rump, and covert-feathers of the wings, are of a brownish colour, a little inclining to an olive-green, having a small glossiness on the wings. The middle feathers of the tail, and the lesser quills next the back, are of the same brownish colour. The head is spotted with small longish dusky spots down the shafts of it's feathers: on the neck they increase to the back, where they are larger. The rump is without spots. The feathers on the shoulders and wings are marked with dusky spots transversely, the form of which will be best understood by the figure. The greater quills are dusky, some of the shorter ones of them having white tips. The row of covert-feathers, next above these, are also dusky, with white tips, which form two oblique lines of white across the wing. The ridge and inner coverts of the wing are likewise white; except a regular dusky line drawn transversely through them. The insides of the quills are ash-coloured, with whitish bottoms; except three or four of the outer quills, which

SPOTTED SANDPIPER

Published Nov.r 6.th 1800. by Harrison Chase & Co. Nos. Newgate Street.

which have no white. The middle feathers of the tail have a dusky bar crossing near their tips: the outer feathers gradually shorten; and are white, with transverse dusky lines. From the throat to the tail, the under side is white, spotted on the throat with small dusky spots: on the breast they are larger, and of a particular shape, as the figure expresses. On the thighs, belly, and coverts under the tail, these dusky spots are not so regular as on the breast. The legs are bare a little above the knees. The toes are flat at their bottoms. The outer and middle toe, on each foot, are connected at their bottoms by a membrane. The legs, and feet, are of a dusky flesh-colour; the nails are black.

"I believe," adds Edwards, "this bird is common both to Europe and America. In the year 1743, one of them was sent to me by my late worthy friend Sir Robert Abdy, Bart. who shot it near his seat of Albins, in Essex. This, on inspection, I found to be a Hen: and it differed in no respect from the American Tringa, but in being without spots on it's under side; except on the throat, where it had a few

a few small longish dusky spots down the shafts of the feathers. By my remarks on the drawing of the Hen bird, I find that it was sent to me in the month of May; and I believe it to be a bird of passage, and very rarely seen in England."

Buffon observes, that "this bird has the speckled plumage, and the size, of the Throstle. It's feet," says he, "resemble those of the Water Ouzel; it's nails are large, and hooked, particularly the hind ones; but it's bill is similar to that of the Purre, of the Dusky Sandpiper, and of other small shore birds; and the lower part of it's leg is naked. It is, therefore, wide of being a Thrush. It appears to be a foreign species, little related to the European birds: yet Edwards presumes, that it is common to both continents; as he received one from the county of Essex, where it had strayed, no other having ever been seen there."

ANNULATED BUTTERFLY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Published Nov. 30th 1800. by Harrison, Cluse, & Co. No. 100. Newgate St.

ANNULATED BUTTERFLY,

OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE drawing of this curious and beautiful insect, which is a native of New South Wales, came into our hands without any remark whatever, and even without a name. We have given it an appellation which is certainly not inappropriate; but shall experience no mortification, if the insect, which has never been before figured, should be described, when better known, under any other denomination.

The annexed figures of the upper and the under sides, are of the natural size. In the latter, the annulations do not appear the whole length of the abdomen, but only on the lower part. There are, also, some visible differences in the markings on the upper and under-sides; particularly, of the under-wings.

ROUND-TAILED MANATI.

London, Published Novr. 13. 1806 by Harrison, Cluse, & Co. No. 108, Newgate Street.

ROUND-TAILED MANATI.

BEFORE we speak of the Manati in general, we shall describe the individual animal represented by the annexed figure; as published by Pennant, from a specimen six feet and a half long in the Leverian Museum.

"The greatest circumference," says this respectable naturalist, "is three feet eight inches; that near the tail, two feet two. It has thick lips; eyes as minute as a pea; and two very small orifices in the place of ears. In each jaw, are nine grinding teeth: in all, thirty-six. The neck is short, and thicker than the head. The greatest thickness of the body is about the shoulders; from which it grows gradually smaller, to the tail. The tail, which lies horizontally, is broad, thickest in the middle, growing thinner to the edges, and quite round. The feet are placed at the shoulders: beneath the skins, are bones for five compleat toes; and, externally, there are three or four nails, flat and rounded. Near the base of each leg, in the Female, is a small teat. The skin is very thick and hard, having a few hairs scattered over it.

"This

"This Manati was taken near the Marigot of Kantai, in the River Senegal. They grow to the length of fourteen or fifteen feet. They are very fat; and, both fat and lean, resemble veal: but the fat adheres to the skin, in form of blubber. The Negroes take them, by harpooning; and sell them at the rate of two long bars of iron apiece. The season is only in the months of December and January. Manati are found in most of the African rivers to the South of the Niger: and, possibly, to those on the Eastern coast. The Woman-Fish, taken off the Isles Boçicas, to the South of the River Cuama, is seemingly of this species; notwithstanding the pious describer, Father Jonanes dos Sanctos, furnishes it with four tremendous tushes."

To this, which is the whole of Pennant's account of the Round-Tailed species, we shall add a short general history of the Manati genus: if, indeed, we are warranted, in calling it a genus; since it is certainly made, by Linnæus, a species only of the Trichechus. To the Trichechus, or Walrus, however, we conceive, the Manati is by no means nearer allied, than it is to the numerous family of Seals. Affinities

finities there undoubtedly are, but there are also dissimilarities; and, perhaps, it would be difficult to decide which have the strongest claims. Very little actual knowledge is possessed by the most enlightened naturalists, respecting the various species or varieties of these different inhabitants of the deep, where few opportunities of discrimination occur; and this, added to the near approach which most of them make to some quadrupeds, sufficiently accounts for the confusion into which so many able writers have fallen.

In the Linnæan system, the Manati is denominated Trichechus Manatus, or the Fish-Tailed Walrus; and the several species, as they are esteemed by Pennant, form only so many varieties.

The species of Manati described by Pennant are as follows: 1. the Whale-Tailed Manati—2. the Round-Tailed Manati—3. the Guiana Manati; with a variety, called the Manati Clusii, or Manati of Clusius—4. the Oronoko Manati—and, 5. the Sea-Ape. The Whale-Tailed Manati, he informs us, is of an enormous size, being sometimes twenty-eight

feet

feet long, and weighing eight thousand pounds; the Guiana Manati grows to the length of sixteen or eighteen feet; the Manati of Clusius is said to be sixteen feet and a half; the Oronoko Manati has been found so large, that twenty-seven men could not draw it out of the water; and the Sea-Ape, which we can scarcely consider as a Manati, is only about five feet long.

Brisson, and some others, describe the Manati by the appellation of the Lamantia: a name which has been applied to this animal, on account of it's lamentable cries. This, however, as Buffon observes, is entirely fabulous. He informs us, that the word Lamantia is a corruption of the name given to the animal in the language of the Galibis, who inhabit Guiana; and of the Caribs, who live in the Antilles: for they are the same race of people, and have nearly the same language. They call the Lamantia the Manati; from which, the Negroes of the French islands, who corrupt words of every kind, by adding the article, made it Lamanati: from Lamanati, they still farther corrupted it into Lamannati, and Lamenti. After this, it was supposed to be derived

rived from Lamentari, on account of the supposed Lamentations of the Female when deprived of her young. It ought, however, to be remarked, that Manati is a Spanish word; which, according to several authors, denotes an animal with hands."

Buffon by no means attempts to separate these animals into distinct species, or even varieties; and has, therefore, involved the history of the Manati in much obscurity, amidst all the information which he has collected, and notwithstanding his many judicious remarks.

"In the animal kingdom," says he, "the terrestrial tribes commence, where the fishes terminate. The Manati, which is neither a quadruped, nor a Whale, retains the two fore-feet, or rather hands, of the former; but the hind-legs, which in the Seal and Walrus are almost entirely included within the body, and very much contracted, are totally obliterated in the Manati. Instead of two short feet, and a still shorter tail, which the Walrus carries in a horizontal direction; the Manati has only a large tail, which spreads out like a Fan in the

the same direction. So that, at first sight, the tail of the former seems to be divided into three; and, in the latter, these three parts appear to be united into one. But, from a more attentive observation, and particularly from dissection, it appears that no such union takes place: that there is not a vestige of thigh-bones and legs; and, that the bones which compose the tail of the Manati, are simple vertebræ, similar to those of the Cetaceous animals, which have no feet. Hence, these animals are Cetaceous by the hind part of their bodies; and are only allied to the Quadrupeds by the two fore-feet, or hands, on the sides of the breast."

Oviedo, said to be the first author who gave a history and description of the Manati, observes that, "as the Spaniards call the fore-feet of all quadrupeds hands, and this animal has only two fore-feet, they have named it the Manati, or the Animal with Hands."

The Manati chiefly inhabits the seas and rivers of America; though the Round-Tailed Manati, which we have described, as well as some other species or varieties, is found on the coasts

and

and in the great rivers of Africa. But, wherever found, and whatever may be their varieties, as to the form and size, their manners, and most other qualities, seem to be the same. They are all said to be tame, inoffensive creatures; to feed on aquatic plants, and such herbage as grows close to the water, which they never quit; to live in families of one Male and Female, with their offspring; to have but a single young one at a time, and seldom more than two together in the family; and to afford excellent food, sometimes said to resemble pork, and sometimes veal.

What has been related of Mermaids and Syrens, some have referred to the Manati; and, as the animal is said to be often tamed by the native Americans, and to delight in music, others have judged it to be the Delphinus, or Dolphin, of the ancients.

On it's taste for music, we are unable to decide; but it seems generally agreed, that the Manati has a very delicate, though not very apparent, ear. Some have even gone the length, to deny that it has any.

Pennant,

Pennant, in his account of the Oronoko Manati, concludes with "the extraordinary history of a tame Manati, preserved by a certain Prince of Hispaniola, at the time of the arrival of the Spaniards, in a lake adjoining to his residence. It was, on account of it's gentle nature, called in the language of the country Matum. It would appear as soon as called by any of it's familiars; for it hated the Spaniards, on account of an injury it had received from one of these adventurers. The fable of Arion was here realized. It would offer itself to the Indian favourites; and carry over the lake ten at a time, singing and playing on it's back. One youth it was particularly enamoured with; which," adds Pennant, "reminds me of the classical parallel in the Dolphin of Hippo, so beautifully related by the younger Pliny. The fates of the two animals were very different: Matum escaped to it's native waters, by means of a violent flood; the Hipponensian fish fell a sacrifice to the poverty of the retired Colonists." See Peter Martyr's Decades of the Indies.

CHINESE PEACOCK PHEASANT.

London, Published Nov.r 13. 1800. by Harrison Cluse & Co. No. 108 Newgate Street.

CHINESE PEACOCK-PHEASANT.

TO Edwards we are indebted for the annexed figure of this elegant and very beautiful bird, which he calls the Peacock-Pheasant from China. It is the Pavo Bicalcaratus, of Linnæus; the Pavo Sinensis, of Brisson; the Eperronier, of Buffon; and the Iris Pheasant, of Latham.

We shall give, entire, the description published by Edwards to accompany his charming figure. It is as follows—

"This bird is larger than the Common Pheasant; and, though it be called by this name, I take it not to be of the Pheasant kind: for the tail is composed of flat-feathers; not pointed at their ends, nor bending downward towards the point, nor hollow on their undersides by the inclination of their web; but the feathers are flat and roundish at their tips; and, in walking, it's tail does not bend into an arch, as it does in a Pheasant's. Though it be a grave-coloured bird, yet it is one of the greatest beauties in nature: we may compare it to sable, thick set with shining jewels of various colours. It's bill is dusky; the upper

mandible

mandible being red from the nostrils to the point. The eyes are yellow: it has, also, a yellow bare space between the bill and eyes, thinly set with black hairs. The cheeks, and a little space above the eyes, are whitish. The feathers on the crown of the head are dark brown; rising up, and their tips reflecting a little forward. The neck is bright brown, transversely barred with dirty dark brown. The upper part of the back, and all the wing-feathers except the greater quills, are of a dark-brown colour, finely painted on the tip of each feather with bright, shining, round spots, of purple; which are changeable to blue, green, and a golden copper-colour: these are encompassed with circles of black, and each feather is tipped with bright yellow brown. The spaces between the spots on the wing and back are powdered with fine light brown spots. The greater quills are wholly of a dark brown, or black. The breast, belly, and thighs, are of a dark brown, transversely variegated with black. The lower part of the back, and feathers covering the tail, are brown; finely powdered with a brighter brown. The tail feathers are of a pretty dark brown; powdered also, finely, with a light brown: the

feathers

feathers being longest in the middle, and shortening gradually toward the sides. Each feather of the tail has two beautiful eyes toward it's tip—one on each side the shaft of the feathers, so that they stand in pairs—of the same changeable beautiful colour with those on the back and wings: these are encompassed with black; and, without that, encompassed again with obscure orange-colour. These bright spots hardly appear on the under side of the tail, which is of a dusky colour. The legs and feet are like those of a Hen, of a dirty brown or black. It has two pair of spurs—the first spur standing about a quarter part up the leg; the other, which is the larger, about the middle of the leg—which is a thing more rare and remarkable, in this bird, than all it's beauties.

"This bird, when I drew it, was the property of James Monro, M. D. of London: a most obliging gentleman, of whom I have received many favours. It has since been presented to Lord Orford; and is now living [1747] at his house in the Exchequer."

Buffon observes, that this bird, which he calls Eperronier,

Eperronier—from Eperon, a spur—is hardly known; except by the figure and description, which Edwards published of the Male and Female, from the living subjects.

"At first sight," says Buffon, "the Male seems to bear some analogy to the Pheasant and Peacock. Like them, it has a long tail; decorated with spangles, as in the Peacock: and some naturalists, abiding by the first impression, have ranged it with the Pheasants. But though, from the consideration of these exterior appearances, Edwards has been induced to retain the name of Peacock-Pheasant, he was convinced, on a closer inspection, that it did not belong to the Pheasant kind: because, first, the long feathers of the tail are round, and not pointed at the end; secondly, they are straight throughout, and not arched back; thirdly, they do not make an inverted gutter, by the bending back of their webs, as in the Pheasant; and, fourthly, it does not walk with it's tail raised and recurved, as in that bird. Still less does it belong to the Peacock kind; from which it differs in the carriage of it's tail, and in the disposition and number of the quills that compose it. It is distinguished,

guished, too, by other properties: it's head and neck are thick; it's tail does not rise, and spread, like the Peacock's; and, instead of a tuft, it has only a sort of flat crest, formed by the feathers on the top of the head, which bristle and stretch towards a point somewhat projecting; and, lastly, it has a double spur on each leg—a singular character, from which I have denominated the bird.

"These external differences, which undoubtedly involve many others more concealed, would seem a sufficient reason to every sensible man, who is not prejudiced by systems, for excluding it from the Peacocks and Pheasants: though, like these, it's toes are parted, it's feet naked, it's legs covered with feathers as far as the heel, the bill fashioned into a curved cone, the tail long, and the head without comb or membrane. A person who sticks rigidly to a system, could not fail to range it with the Peacock or the Pheasant; since it possesses all the attributes of that genus: but must the historian, exempt from prejudice, and unfettered by forms, recognise it as the Peacock of Nature?

"In vain it will be urged that, since the principal

principal characters of this bird are the same with those of the Pheasant, the little variations ought not to seclude it from that arrangement: for, I may still ask, who has a right to fill these principal characters? To decide, for instance, that the negative attribute, of having neither crest nor membrane, is more essential than the shape or the size? and to pronounce that all birds which resemble each other in characters arbitrarily selected, must also agree in their true properties?

"In laying aside the name of Chinese Peacock, I have acted conformably to the testimony of travellers; who assure us that, through the whole extent of that vast country, there are no Peacocks but such as have been introduced from abroad."

Notwithstanding what is above advanced by Buffon, and the different opinions of systematic writers, we see no sufficient reason for rejecting the name originally given by Edwards to this bird. We confess, however, that by blending the peculiarity of the double spur with the general appearance of the bird, a good Linnæanist might form a still more scientific appellation than it has yet received.

PEACOCK BUTTERFLY,

OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE small Peacock Butterfly, represented in the figure annexed, is exactly copied from an original drawing of the natural size, made in New South Wales; from whence we received it, among numerous other drawings, but unaccompanied by any name or description.

That it is of the Peacock family, seems evident; but, though the general colour be of a most rich brown, and the entire form of the Fly very elegant; we do not think this Peacock Butterfly of New South Wales, on the whole, equally beautiful with our Common Peacock Butterfly. Still, as it is an undoubted original, and native of a remote and recently discovered country, we have judged it not unworthy a place in our collection.

PEACOCK BUTTERFLY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

London, Published Nov.r 13 - 1802, by Harrison Cluse & C. Wood, Newgate Street.

MUSK BEAVER.

London Published Nov.r 15 - 1800 by Harrison Cluse & Co. No. 108 Newgate Street.

MUSK BEAVER.

THE systematic writers are divided in their opinions respecting this animal: some of them considering it as a Beaver; and others, merely as a Rat. It is the Castor Zibethicus, or Civet Beaver, of Linnæus; but the Mus Zibethicus, of Gmelin's edition of the Systema Naturæ. In Smith's Virginia, it is called Mussascus; in Josselyn's Voyage to New England, the Musquask; in Lawson's Carolina, and by Charlevoix, the Musk Rat; by Pennant, the Musk Beaver; and, by Buffon, the Ondatra, or Canadian Musk Rat. Ondatra, Buffon says, is the name given to this animal by the North-American Savages.

In the Memoirs of the French Academy of Sciences, for the year 1725, there is a very compleat description of this animal, including some most curious anatomical remarks, by Monsieur Sarrasin, then King's Physician at Quebec, and a learned and ingenious correspondent of the Academy. It was in honour of

of this gentleman, who was also an excellent botanist, that Tournefort named the remarkable genus Sarracenia. Buffon has availed himself of this admirable account; and we shall, in the present article, have little more to do, than to transcribe from what he has collected.

"The Canadian Musk Rat," says Buffon, "is of the size of a small Rabbit, and of the figure of a Rat. It's head is short, and resembles that of the Water-Rat. It's hair is soft and glossy; and, beneath the first hair, there is a thick down, nearly resembling that of the Beaver. Like other Rats, it's tail is long, and covered with scales: but it's form is different; for, instead of being cylindrical, it is compressed laterally from the middle to the extremity, and roundish near the origin. The toes are not united by membranes; but garnished with long close hair, which assists the animal in swimming. It's ears are very short; and not naked, as in the Common Rat, but covered both internally and externally with hair. The eyes are large, their aperture being about three lines. In the under jaw, there are two cutting-teeth, about an inch long; and,

in

in the upper, two shorter: these four teeth are very strong, and serve the animal for gnawing and cutting wood. As this animal belongs to the same country with the Beaver; dwells on the water; and has nearly the same figure, colour, and fur; they have often been compared to each other. It is even asserted, that a full-grown Musk Rat, at first sight, may be mistaken for a Beaver of a month old. They differ greatly, however, in the form of the tail: which, in the Beaver, is oval, and flat horizontally; but, in the Musk Rat, it is very long, and flat or compressed vertically. Besides, these animals have a great resemblance in their dispositions and instincts. The Musk Rats, like the Beavers, live in society during the winter. They make little huts, about two feet and a half in diameter, and sometimes larger, where several families associate together. It is not the object of this operation, like that of the Marmots, to sleep during five or six months, but solely to shelter them from the rigour of the air. These houses, or huts, are round, and covered with a dome about a foot thick. Their materials are herbs and rushes interwoven, and cemented with earth, which

they

they plash with their feet. They are impenetrable to rain; and are furnished with steps, in the inside, to prevent their being injured by inundations from the land. These huts, which serve the animals for a retreat, are covered, during winter, with several feet of snow and ice, without incommoding them. They lay not up provisions, like the Beaver; but dig a kind of pits, or passages, under and round their habitations, to give them an opportunity of procuring water and roots. Though thus associated, they pass the winter in melancholy; for, it is not the season of their amours. During all this period, they are deprived of light; and, when the gentle breezes of the spring begin to dissolve the snow, and to discover the tops of their habitations, the hunters open the dome, suddenly dazzle them with the light, and kill or seize all those which have not had time to retire to their subterranean galleries: into which they are still followed; for their skin is valuable, and their flesh makes tolerable good eating. Such as escape the vigilance of the hunter, quit their habitations at this time. They wander about during summer; but always in pairs, because it is the season

son of their amours. They feed on herbs, and voraciously devour the fresh productions of the earth. By this redundance of excellent nourishment, the membrana adiposa expands, increases, and is filled with fat: the follicles, also, are renewed, and filled; the generical organs unfold, and swell; and then the animals acquire so strong an odour of musk, as to be hardly supportable. This odour is perceived at a distance; and, though agreeable to the Europeans, is so disgustful to the Savages, that they have denominated a river, because it is inhabited by a great number of these Rats, the Stinking River.

The Females bring forth annually five or six young. Their time of gestation is not long; because they come in season in the beginning of summer, and the young are pretty large in the month of October: when they retire, with their parents, into the huts, which are built every year; for, it has been remarked that they never return to their old habitations. Their cry is a kind of groaning; which the hunter imitates, in order to make them approach him. Their fore-teeth are so strong,

and

and so proper for cutting, that they soon, when shut up in a box of hard wood, make a hole sufficient for their escape; which is a faculty they have in common with the Beaver. They swim neither so swiftly, nor so long, as the Beaver, but often go on the ground. They do not run well: and they walk still worse; rocking from side to side, like a Goose. Their skin preserves the smell of musk, which renders their fur not so generally agreeable; but the down, or under hair, is used in the manufacturing of hats.

"These animals are not remarkably wild; and, when taken young, are easily tamed. They are then very pretty; and the tail, which is long and flat, and makes their figure disagreeable, is at this period of life very short. They sport with as much innocence and gentleness as young Cats. They never bite; and might be easily reared, if their odour were not disagreeable.

"The Canadian and Muscovy Musk Rats," concludes Buffon, "are the only northern animals which yield a perfume: for the

the odour of the Castoreum is extremely offensive; and it is only in warm climates that the animals which furnish the true Musk, the Civet, and other perfumes, are to be found."

From the anatomical observations of Monsieur Sarrasin, we learn, among many other curious particulars, that the great muscular force in the skin of this animal, enables it to contract the body into a small volume; and that the suppleness of the false ribs, which admits this contraction, is so considerable, that it is able to pass through holes where much smaller animals are incapable of entering.

It appears, that the general colour of this animal is a reddish brown, the tail being ash-coloured; that it eats herbs, roots, the pith of rushes, and particularly the Calamus Aromaticus, or Sweet Flag; and that the flesh, which has no flavour of the musk, is excellent food.

Pennant supposes, that the odour of this animal, which it loses in winter, may be derived from it's feeding on the Calamus Aromaticus. He describes the Musk Beaver as having a thick

thick blunt nose; short ears, almost hid in the fur; large eyes; toes separated, and those behind fringed with strong hairs closely set together; the tail compressed sideways, very thin at the edges, and covered with small scales, intermixed with a few hairs; the head and body a reddish brown colour, and the breast and belly, ash-coloured, tinged with red; and the whole form of the body exactly resembling that of a Beaver. We, therefore, incline with him, and with Linnæus, to class it with the Beavers, rather than with the Rats; notwithstanding the greater part of modern naturalists, it must be confessed, with some shew of reason, appear to entertain a different opinion.

GOLDEN CROWNED THRUSH.

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GOLDEN-CROWNED THRUSH.

THIS bird is the Motacilla Aurocapilla, of the Linnæan system; Buffon's Little Thrush of St. Domingo; the Turdus Minimus, Vertice Aureo, of Bartram; and the Golden-Crowned Thrush, of Edwards, and of Pennant. Dr. Benjamin Smith Barton, in his late valuable Fragments of the Natural History of Pennsylvania, observes that "this is very properly considered as a Turdus, or Thrush, both by Edwards, and by Pennant:" consequently, it is not strictly a Motacilla.

For the excellent figure of this Thrush we are indebted to Edwards, by whom it appears to have been first drawn and described. That admirable ornithologist informs us, that the individual bird represented "was taken at sea, in November 1751, by the late Thomas Stack, M. D. and F. R. S. in his voyage to Jamaica, as the ship lay becalmed, about eight or ten leagues distant from Hispaniola." He believes, that it had never before been figured or described;

described; and supposes it to have been a bird of passage, then passing from the Continent of North-America, to make it's winter's residence in the warm Islands between the Tropicks. "The Cape of Florida," he remarks, "seems to be providentially situated to favour the passage of birds from the Western side of the Great Continent of North America, to the Islands of Hispaniola, Cuba, Jamaica, and the whole range of the Carribean Islands, quite to the Northernmost Coasts of South America. We may suppose the birds from the Eastern shores of North America pass South-Eastward by the Isthmus of America."

After writing the above description, Edwards received one of these birds from Mr. Bartram of Pennsylvania, which confirmed his opinion that it was a bird of passage: for, he tells us, Mr. Bartram says, "it arrives there in April, and continues all the summer. It builds it's nest on the ground, and always chuses the south-side of a hill. It makes a hole in the leaves, like a little oven, and lines it with dry grass. The Hen lays five white eggs, spotted with brown."

Edwards

Edwards adds, "I received from Mr. Barram, together with this and some others, the Little Thrush, figured and described by Catesby, in his Natural History of Carolina; but this I have figured is smaller, and the least of the Thrush kind yet known."

The description Edwards gave of this bird, and which he figured of the natural size, being very little larger than a Sparrow, is as follows —"It's bill is of a dusky colour; except the base of the lower mandible, which is of a flesh-colour. The top of the head is of a fine golden colour: over each eye passes a black line. The hinder part of the neck, the back, wings, and tail, are all of a greenish brown, or olive-colour; the inner covert-feathers of the wings are whitish; the inside of the quills, and underside of the tail, are ash-coloured; the throat, breast, and sides, are white, with longish black spots down the middle of the feathers; and the middle of the belly, the thighs, and the covert-feathers under the tail, are purely white. The legs and feet are of the usual make, and of a yellowish brown colour."

Buffon

Buffon thus describes his Little Thrush of St. Domingo—" This Thrush," says he, " in point of smallness, is like the American Thrush. It's head is ornamented with a sort of crown, or cap, of bright orange, verging on red. The specimen figured by Edwards, differs from our's," remarks Buffon, " in not being dappled under the belly. It was caught in November 1751, at sea, eight or ten leagues off the Island of St. Domingo; which led Edwards to suppose that it was one of those birds of passage which every year leave the Continent of North America on the approach of winter; and depart from the Cape of Florida, in quest of milder seasons. This conjecture was verified. Bartram informed Edwards, that these birds arrived in Pennsylvania in the month of April, and remained there during the whole summer. He added, that the Female built it's nest in the ground, or rather in heaps of dry leaves, where it formed a sort of excavation; that it lined it with grass, and always chose the slope of a hill facing the South; and, that it layed four or five eggs spotted with brown. Such differences in the colour of the eggs, in that of the

the plumage, and in the mode of nestling, seem to point at a nature distinct from that of our European Thrushes."

This is the whole account published by Buffon; who takes no notice of the Linnæan name, or any other synonime. If we add to the concluding observations of Buffon, the difference of this bird's size, compared with that of most other Thrushes, we may easily excuse Linnæus, for rather making it a Motacilla, than a Turdus; though it is by no means necessary, with our enlarged information, to adopt the same error.

FAN FLOWER OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

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FAN-FLOWER
OF NEW SOUTH-WALES.

SLIGHT as may seem our reason for denominating this article the Fan-Flower, we have ventured so to call it: because, in the entire plant, a regular series of thirteen flower-stalks, or branches, similar to the single one represented, rise from the same root, and spread in the form of a fan; the longest occupying the centre, and the rest growing gradually shorter to each extremity of the groupe; so as to describe a sort of angular arch with the flowers at the top, enriched by such as are budding and blowing less regularly beneath on the same stalks.

In a Memorandum at the bottom of the original drawing, we are assured, that this Flower, however long it may have been kept, on being placed in the water, will contract itself as the under flower appears in the annexed print; and, after drying, will again expand itself, and assume all it's pristine vivid colouring, as seen in the flower at the top.

This

This plant, which is a native of New South-Wales, rises to the height of four feet, and grows chiefly in a light sandy soil.

The seed is of a singular form; appearing, when magnified, like a bit of a stoutish pin, headed at each end, one of the heads being somewhat larger than the other.

GUANACO.

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GUANACO.

THE Guanaco is one of those species of Camel peculiar to the New World. The systematic writers enumerate five species of these animals; but Buffon, considering them only as two, divides them into the Llama and the Pacos, and even describes them both together. In thus doing, it cannot be supposed that he has avoided confusion; when, in truth, the more patient investigations of systematic enquirers, leave us, after all, in much doubt and obscurity.

The five species of the South-American Camel, in the Linnæan system, are as follows —1. the Camelus Glama, or Llama; 2. the Camelus Huanacus, or Guanaco; 3. the Camelus Araucanus, or Chillihueque; 4. the Camelus Vicugna, or Vicunna; and 5. the Camelus Paco, or Pacos.

In describing the Guanaco, which is alone our present object, we are far from certain that we

we shall be enabled to separate, with strict propriety, what relates only to that species. It seems to us, indeed, that local names, and variations produced by difference of climate and intermixtures of breed, may have occasioned much of the confusion which prevails, and given rise to the rational idea of so many distinct species.

The Guacano, which appears to be the largest of all the South-American animals of this kind, is said to be sometimes as large as a Horse. It inhabits the snowy tops of the Andes, in South America, during summer; but, more tender than the Pacos, descends in winter into the vallies. It's back is considerably arched; and, instead of being covered with wool, like the smaller species, it has long smooth hair. It has a round head, and pointed nose. The ears are straight, like those of a Horse, but considerably longer. The tail is short: but the legs are long; particularly, the hind-legs.

Pennant says, that "it runs with amazing swiftness; and, from the great length of the hind-

hind-legs, prefers descending the hills, which it does by leaps and bounds like the buck. When young, it is hunted and taken with dogs: but, when old, these animals are chaced by the Indians, mounted on swift Horses; who catch them with nooses, which they fling with great dexterity." He adds, that "they are easily domesticated;" that "their flesh is excellent when young;" and that, "in an adult state, it is salted, and is capable of very long preservation."

This species certainly resembles the Llama in manners, and in some particulars of it's external form, as well as in the uses to which it is applied by the natives of the country: but they are said never to intermix, either in their wild or their domesticated state. Besides this, the Guanaco wants the protuberance on the breast described in the Llama; it has a hunch on the back, which the Llama has not; and the nature of the hair with which they are respectively cloathed is totally different.

Molina, in his Natural History of Chili, describes the Guanaco as carrying it's tail erect:

erect: and this is adopted by most subsequent naturalists; though it by no means corresponds with the figures of Gesner and Schreber, in which the tail is represented as pendulous.

Schreber's figure, indeed, is evidently copied from that of Gesner, which we have also adopted. The latter calls it Allo-Camelus, and the former Camelus Huanacus.

Gesner tells us, that this wonderful animal, unknown to Pliny, and other ancient authors, was brought from South America to Europe in the year 1558, under the name of an Indian Sheep. It was, he says, six feet in height, and five in length. The neck was as white as that of a Swan; and the rest of the body, a reddish or purplish colour.

Buffon, who treats the Llama and the Guanaco as the same animal, and unites it's history with that of the Pacos, observes that the Llama and the Pacos were the only domestic animals of the ancient Americans. In confirmation of this, he quotes the Histoire des Incas, which expressly states, that "the Indians of Peru,

Peru, before the arrival of the Spaniards, had no domestic animals but the Pacos and the Huanacus." These names," says Buffon, "were appropriated to the animals in their domestic condition. The Wild Llama was called Huanacus, or Guanaco; and the Wild Pacos, Vicuna, or Vigogne."

We are far from certain, that Buffon is exactly correct in these distinctions. On the contrary, we are quite positive, that in what he afterwards asserts, relative to the Allo-Camelus, and the Elapho-Camelus, he has egregiously erred. "The animal," says he, which is mentioned by Gesner, under the name of Allo-Camelus, and of which he gives a figure, is a Llama that was brought alive from Peru to Holland, in the year 1558: it is the same," adds he, "with that mentioned by Matthiolus, under the denomination of Elapho-Camelus, and which he has pretty accurately described." Whereas, in truth, the Llama, and our Guanaco, which last is Gesner's Allo-Camelus, faithfully copied, are manifestly different animals: as is abundantly evident from the slightest comparison of their respective

respective figures and descriptions. The accounts of the Allo-Camelus and Elapho-Camelus, quoted by Buffon, in the original Latin of Gesner and of Matthiolus, state the former to be six feet in height, and five feet in length; to have a neck like a Swan, and equally white, the rest of the body being of a reddish or purplish colour: and, the latter, from head to tail six feet in length, and from the soles of the feet to the top of the protuberance on the back only four feet in height; to have the head, neck, and mouth, of a Camel; an ample breast, with a large protuberance beneath, like that animal; the ears of a Stag; and the eyes of an Ox.

The description of this last animal—in which, however, no colour is mentioned, nor even the nature of the hair hinted—seems to us, indeed, tolerably near that of Gesner's Allo-Camelus; and both, perhaps, are allied to the Cervo-Camelus of Johnston: but they have very little resemblance to the Llama; which is a woolly animal, without any protuberance on the back, and considerably smaller than either.

We

We agree, however, with Buffon, in what he says relative to the little that is known of the history of these South American animals.

"It is singular," says he, "that though the Llama and Pacos are as domestic in Peru, Mexico, and Chili, as the Horse is in Europe, or the Camel in Arabia, we have hardly any knowledge of them; and that, though the Spaniards have had the dominion of these vast countries for more than two centuries, none of their authors have given a compleat history, and exact description, of these animals. It is alledged, indeed, that they cannot be transported into Europe, nor even descend from their mountains, without perishing in a short time; but, in Quito, Lima, and other towns, where men of letters reside, these animals might be drawn, described, and dissected."

PINE CREEPER.

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PINE-CREEPER.

IT appears to us somewhat doubtful, whether this bird be in fact a Creeper: yet it is the Certhia Pinus, of the Linnæan System; as well as the Pine-Creeper of Edwards and Catesby. It is likewise generally known, in America, by the name of the Pine-Creeper. We shall therefore preserve this original appellation, with Edwards's figure of the bird; and, after giving the account of it, which that celebrated ornithologist first published, will add, from Buffon, and others, what has been farther remarked, relative to it's history and description, accompanied by such observations as an examination of the subject has suggested in our own minds.

"The bill," says Edwards, "is black; a little thick at it's base, but ends in a sharp point. From the bill to the eye, on each side, passes a black line. The top and sides of the head, the breast, belly, and thighs, are of a bright yellow colour; the crown being a little

deeper.

deeper. The hinder part of the neck and back, to the tail, is of a pleasant yellowish green, inclining to olive, and brightest on the rump. The wings and tail are of a blueish grey colour. The coverts of the wings have white tips, which form two white lines across each wing. The inner coverts of the wings are white. The insides of the quills are grey, their inner webs having whitish edges. The outer feathers of the tail have their inner webs white; the covert-feathers beneath the tail are also white. The legs and feet are of a yellowish brown colour, and made as in most other small birds.

"This bird, with many others, was shot near Philadelphia, in Pennsylvania, by my friend, Mr. William Bartram; who sent them to London, for me to publish the figures and natural history of them.

"I take this bird to be the Pine-Creeper of Catesby, though my bird is of a brighter colour. His might be a Cock of the first year. The principal difference between them is, that the wings and tail in his were brown, where they

they are grey in mine. He says, the Hens are all brown; and, that they are seen on leafless trees, in the winter, searching for food. Mr. Bartram says, they arrive in Pennsylvania, from the South, in April; feed on the insects which they find on the leaves and buds of trees; continue with them the greater part of the summer; and, as he believes, breed there, though he never found any of their nests. According to Catesby," concludes Edwards, "it can bear the winter, in Carolina, which is farther South than Pennsylvania."

Buffon's account of this bird, which he calls the Figuier des Sapins, or Pine Fig-Eater, is as follows—"Edwards," says he, "calls this bird the Pine-Creeper; but it does not belong to that genus, though it creeps on the Pines in Carolina and Pennsylvania. The bills of the Creepers, it is well known, is bent like a sickle: whereas it is straight in this bird; which resembles the Fig-Eaters so much, in every other respect, that it ought to be classed with them. Catesby is also mistaken, in ranging it with the Titmice; probably, because it creeps on trees. Brisson has committed an oversight,

oversight, in separating the Pine-Creeper of Catesby from that of Edwards.

" The head, the throat, and all the under side of the body, are of a very beautiful yellow. There is a small black bar on each side of the head. The upper part of the neck, and all the upper surface of the body, are of a yellow green, or shining olive, which is still more bright on the rump. The wings of the tail are of a blueish iron-colour. The superior coverts are terminated with white; which forms, on each wing, two transverse white bars. The bill is black, and the legs are of a yellowish brown. The Female is entirely brown.

" This bird," adds Buffon, " appears in Carolina, in winter; where, Catesby tells us, it searches on the deciduous trees for insects. It is also seen, during summer, in the northern provinces. Bartram informed Edwards, in a Letter, that it arrives in Pennsylvania in the month of April, and continues all the summer. However, he confesses that he never saw it's

nest.

nest. It lives on the insects that lodge on the leaves, and in the buds, of trees."

This is the whole of Buffon's history and description; most of which is evidently borrowed from Edwards.

His remark on the usual curvature of the Creeper's bill merits notice: though it seems by no means certain that, if this bird be not a Creeper, it is positively a Fig-Eater; and there appears, to us, a strong incongruity, in calling it the Pine Fig-Eater!

Pennant, and Latham, partaking of our difficulty, but bolder, from their superior systematic skill, have ventured to call this bird the Pine Warbler. To this we should have no great objection, did we perceive an absolute necessity for rejecting the original name; but we might, perhaps, at least equally incline to call it a Fly-Catcher.

Buffon, in his account of the Yellow-Rumped Fly-Catcher of Edwards, which he denominates the Cinereous-Headed Fig-Eater, remarks

remarks that "Edwards has very improperly given the appellation of Fly-Catcher, to all the Fig-Eaters that he has described and delineated." How does this assertion agree with what he advances against Edwards, respecting the Pine-Creeper, and which himself insists is a Fig-Eater! Edwards cannot be said to have called that a Fly-Catcher: and yet, perhaps, it it is as little a Fig-Eater, or even a Warbler, as a Fly-Catcher; since it is on all hands confessed to be rather a feeder on insects than on fruits of any kind.

PARADISE MOTH.

London, Published Novr 20 - 1806 by Harrison Cluse & Co. No. 108. Newgate Street.

PARADISE MOTH.

FOR this very curious and beautiful Moth, we are indebted to Mr. Drury's valuable Collection of Exotic Insects. It is a native of Africa, and said to have been brought from Sierra Leona.

We have taken the liberty to denominate this insect, from the extreme length of it's wings, so far beyond all idea of what are called Swallow-Tails, the Paradise Moth: a name which, from it's obvious reference to the Birds of Paradise, seems to us sufficiently descriptive of it's prominent character.

It certainly is a very singular and distinct species; but we are entirely unacquainted with it's history, and totally at a loss to account for the intention of Nature in it's peculiar formation.

FOUR FINGERED MONKEY.

London, Published Nov.r 27. 1800. by Harrison, Cluse, & Co. No. 108. Newgate Street.

FOUR-FINGERED MONKEY.

THIS Monkey is the Coaita of Buffon: who unites it's history with that of Marcgrave's Exquima; which is the Simia Diana of Linnæus, and Pennant's Spotted Monkey. It appears to be the Simia Sapajus Paniscus, of Linnæus; the Quato, of Bancroft's Guiana; the Spider Monkey, of Edwards; and the Four-Fingered Monkey, of Pennant, &c. Quoata, or Coaita, is said to be it's usual name in Guiana.

Buffon gives us the following distinctive characters of this species—" The Coaita," says he, " has neither cheek-pouches, nor callosities on the buttocks. It has a very long prehensile tail. The partition of the nostrils is very thick; and their apertures are placed at the sides of the nose, not under it. It has only four fingers on it's hands, or fore-feet. Both it's hair and skin are black. It's face is naked, and tawny. It's ears are also naked, and resemble those of Man. It is about a foot and

a half

a half in length; and it's tail is longer than the body and head together. It walks on four feet. The Female is not subject to any periodical evacuation.

"I saw one of them at the palace of the Duke De Bouillon; where, by it's familiarity, and even it's caresses, it procured the affection of those to whose charge it was committed. But, notwithstanding all the care and attention which it received, it was unable to resist the cold of the winter 1764. I saw a nother in the house of the Marquis De Montmirail. This was a Male, and the other a Female. Both were equally tractable and well tamed. Hence this Sapajou, by it's mild and docile disposition, differs much from the Ouarine, and Alouate, who are so wild that no art can tame them. It differs, indeed, from all the other Sapajous, by having only four fingers on it's hands: this character, and it's prehensile tail, easily distinguish it from the Monkeys; who have all five fingers, and a flaccid tail."

Pennant tells us, that the Four-Fingered Monkeys inhabit the neighbourhood of Carthagena,

hagena, Guiana, Brasil, and Peru. He quotes, from Dampier, what he calls a lively description of their gambols: which passage, however, is applied, by Buffon, to the Ouarine, or Pennant's Preacher Monkey. Both cannot be right; and we even fear to adopt, as particularly applicable to this Monkey, what Buffon himself extracts from Dampier, to illustrate it's history.

Edwards mentions two Four-Fingered Monkeys, as follows—"In Oxford Road," says he, "near Soho Square, I lately—(A. D. 1761.)—saw, at a house where they shew wild-beasts, &c. a black Monkey, something like the Middle-Sized Black Monkey: they called him a Spider Monkey, from the thinness and the length of his limbs and tail. His face was of a flesh colour. He held fast by his tail, by twisting it round any thing. His great singularity, and what I never observed before, was, that the hands had four fingers only, the thumbs being wanting. There was, at the same place, another long-limbed Four-Fingered Monkey; in all respects like the former, except that the hair was brown. I was willing," adds

adds he, "to make this memorandum, because this genus of Monkey had not been before discovered by me."

Pennant says, that Mr. Brookes had one or two Four-Fingered Monkeys; which, as long as they continued in health, were so active, and played such tricks, "as to confirm the accounts of voyagers." He observes, that they are very tender, and seldom live long in our climate.

As there evidently appear to be varieties of the Four-Fingered Monkeys; it would, perhaps, be more strictly proper, to call this particular animal the Four-Fingered Black Monkey.

MAN OF WAR BIRD.

MAN OF WAR BIRD.

WE have figured this bird from Edwards, nd shall commence our account of it with what he says on the subject.

" The original," says he, " was a stuffed kin; which, from bill-point to tail-end, meaured thirty-six inches: the wing, when closed, vas twenty-three inches long; and the tips of he wings, when extended, upwards of six eet distant. The tail is forked, having the utside feathers thirteen inches long. The rime quills measured sixteen inches. The ill has two channels, running the whole length f the upper mandible; at the ends of which, ext the head, the nostrils are placed: it is of red colour; and widens toward the swallow, he angles of the mouth being nearly two inches istant from each other. The whole bird, xcept the throat and breast, is covered with eathers of a rusty brownish or black colour: he belly, insides of the wings, and under-side f the tail, being a very little lighter than the

back,

back. On the breast is a white bed of feathers, nearly of the shape of a heart; the point of which tends to the throat, and the two blunter angles of it pass under the wings, which have each of them about thirty quills or prime feathers in a row. The tail has ten feathers; the two middlemost shorter by half than the outer feathers. The legs, which are feathered to the knees, are the shortest, for the proportion of the bird, that I have yet met with: they had small stumpy feathers on their outer sides, quite to the feet. The four toes are all webbed together; as in the Pelican, Soland Goose, Cormorant, Shag, &c. of which genus this bird is a species. The toes were not webbed to their ends, as is common in most water-fowls; but one joint of each of the three forward toes was left free, and at liberty, the better to hold it's prey—fishes—which are slippery. The legs and feet are of a dirty yellowish colour.

The bird described in this plate, was presented to me, well-preserved dry, by my obliging friend Isaac Romilly, Esq. F. R. S. They are found only in warm countries, and are seen

seen in seas at a distance from land. It appears to me, to be the same with the Rabihorcado, or Raboforcado, of Willughby. Petiver has the same figure in his Gazophylacium. He calls it, the Indian Forked-Tail. The figures given by these authors—who, by the way, borrowed them from Nieremberg—are very imperfect, and can give no idea of the bird: and what they say of it, amounts to no more, than that it has a forked tail. Du Tertre has given a description of this bird, by the name of La Fregate; with an account of it's long flight over the sea from land, and it's combats with other sea-fowls for prey, &c. Ray, in his Synopsis Avium, has given Du Tertre's description, &c. part of which is translated into Albin's History of Birds. I imagine, Albin has formed his figure of the Frigate Bird from Du Tertre's description only: for it is very erroneous; especially in the gills, as he calls them, and in the feet, which in my figure are rectified. Du Tertre says, the Males are wholly black as Ravens. I believe what is here given to be by far the truest figure, and the exactest description, yet extant. I suppose, this may be the Female

Bird;

Bird; for, since I drew it, I have been told, by a gentleman who has made several voyages to the East Indies, that the feathers of the Males of this species are wholly black."

Such is the description published by Edwards; who calls it, after Brown, Dampier, and Sir Hans Sloane, the Man of War Bird. It is the Pelecanus Aquilus, of Linnæus; the Fregata Avis, or Frigate Bird, of Ray, Willughby, Albin, and Pennant; the Fregata, of Brisson; the Fregate of Buffon; and the Frigate Pelican, of Latham. The Portuguese are said to call it the Rabo Forcado, on account of it's very forked tail: but, in Brasil, it is named Caripira.

Buffon has collected, on the whole, a very respectable history of our Man of War Bird; but he certainly under-rates it's corporeal magnitude. He calls Edwards's bird, the Little Frigate, which measured thirty-six inches in length: yet gives, most inconsistently, as the general size of the body, only that of our Domestic Hen; while he absurdly states the expansion of it's wings to be eight, ten, and

even

even fourteen feet! The wings of Edwards's bird, though so much larger than a Hen, extended but little more than six feet. These obvious errors lead us strongly to suspect the propriety of some other parts of his description: particularly, what relates to the throat of the adult Male; "under which," he says, "there is a large fleshy membrane of bright red, more or less inflated or pendulous." He adds, "no person has distinctly described these parts:" which inclines us to think, that this may be an error, adopted from Albin's figure, notwithstanding the caution given by Edwards.

"The steadiness and rapidity," says Buffon, "with which this bird moves through the air, have procured it the name of Frigate. It surpasses all the winged sailors, in the boldness, the vigour, and the extent of it's flight. Poised on wings of prodigious length, which support it without perceptible motion, it swims gently through the tranquil air: but, if the atmosphere be embroiled with tempests, the Frigate, nimble as the wind, ascends above the clouds, and stretches beyond the region of storms. It journies in all directions; and either mounts

upwards,

upwards, or glides horizontally. It often roams to a distance of several hundred leagues. These immense excursions are performed by a single flight; and, as the day is insufficient, it pursues it's route during the darkness of the night; and never halts on the sea, but when invited by the abundance of prey."

Labat remarks, that "it cannot rest on the water, like the water-fowl; since it's feet are not calculated for swimming, and it's wings are so l rge that they require room to begin their motion: if, therefore, it fell on the water, it's efforts would be fruitless, and it could never rise again. We may hence conclude that, as it is found three or four hundred leagues from land, it must describe a track of seven or eight hundred leagues, before it can halt."

These birds roam so far distant from land, in pursuit of the Flying-Fishes. Du Tertre says—"though the Frigate rises to a vast height in the air, and ften beyond the reach of our sight; it, notwithstanding, descries clearly where the Dolphins are in pursuit of the Flying-Fish: it then shoots down, like lightning,

lightning, not quite to the water; but, when it has come within ten or twelve fathoms, it makes a great bend, sinks gradually till it razes the sea, and catches the little fish, either flying or in the water, with it's bill or it's talons, and often with both."

With this, Capt. Cooke's account perfectly agrees—" The Dolphins and Bonettoes," says our great circumnavigator, " pursued the shoals of Flying-Fish, as we have observed in the Atlantic Ocean: while several large black birds, with long wings and a forked tail, usually called Man of War Birds, rose very high in the air; and, darting down, with surprising swiftness, on the fish which they perceived swimming, never failed to strike their prey."

Buffon observes—" It is between the Tropics only, or a little beyond them, that we find the Frigate, in the seas of both continents. He maintains a sort of empire over the birds of the Torrid Zone. He obliges many, such as the Boobies, to provide for him: and, striking them with his wing, or biting them with

with his hooked bill, he constrains them to disgorge their prey, which he instantly catches. The hostilities which he commits, have led sailors to bestow on him the appellation of the Man of War Bird. He has the audacity even to set man at defiance. "On landing at the "Island of the Ascension," says the Viscount De Querhoënt, "we were surrounded by a "cloud of Frigates. With a blow of my "cane, I knocked down one, which at-"tempted to snatch a fish out of my hand. "At the same time, many of them flew a few "feet above the kettle which was boiling "ashore, and attempted to carry off the "flesh, though a part of the ship's company "attended it."

"We may suppose," ingeniously suggests Buffon, "that all the palmated birds, which perch, have no other object in view, than to commence more easily their flight: for that habit is not suited to the structure of their feet; and it is only on elevated points that they can display their enormous wings, and exert their pinions. Hence the Frigates retire to settle on the high cliffs, on woody islets, that

that they may breed undisturbed. Dampier remarks, that they build their nests on trees, in sequestered spots near the sea. They lay one or two eggs; which are white, with a carnation tinge, and having small dots of crimson. The young ones are at first covered with a light grey down; their feet are of the same colour, and their bill is almost white. But this colour afterwards changes; and the bill grows red, or black, and blueish in the middle: the same alteration takes place in the toes. Among the number of Frigates seen by the Viscount De Querhoënt, at the Island of Ascension," adds Buffon, "and which were all of the same size, some appeared entirely black; others of a deep black on the upper surface of the body, with the head and belly white. The feathers on the neck are so long, that the inhabitants of the South-Sea Islands work them into bonnets. They set great value on the fat, or rather oil, extracted from these birds, on account of it's supposed virtue in curing rheumatisms and torpors."

M. De la Borde says—"The Buccaneers extract this oil, which they call the Oil of Frigates,

Frigates, by boiling these birds in great cauldrons: it sells very dear in our islands."

These birds had long possessed a small island at the extremity of Guadaloupe, to which all the Frigates of the neighbourhood came to repose at night, and to nestle in the season. It was called the Islet of Frigates: and it still bears that name, though they have changed their retreat; for, in 1643, and 1644, many persons hunted them so closely, that they were obliged to forsake the place.

VIOLET OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

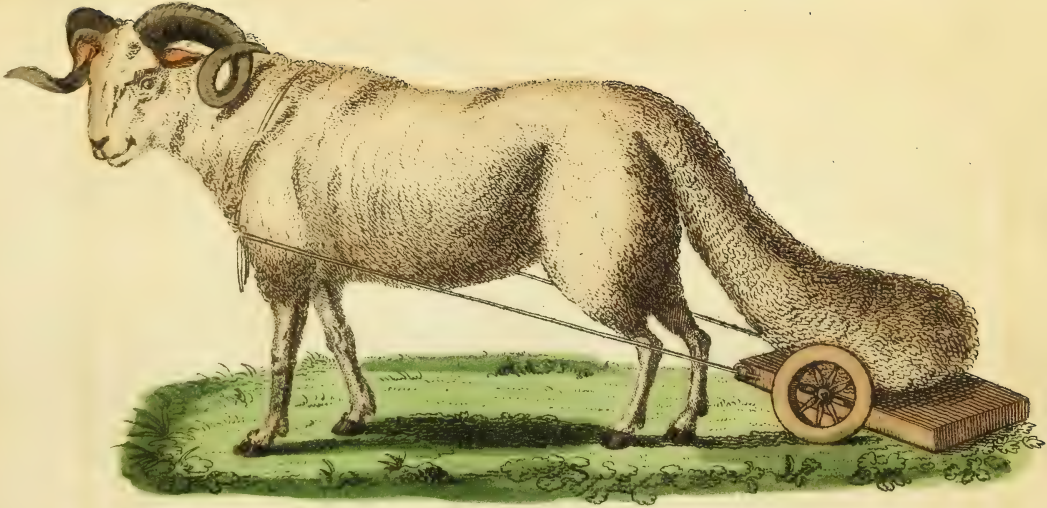
London, Published Nov.r 27 1800 by Harrison, Clive, & Co. Most Newgate Street.

VIOLET,

OF NEW SOUTH-WALES.

WE received the original drawing, from which the annexed print is exactly copied, without any other information, than that the plant is called, by the English Settlers, the New South Wales Violet; and, that it is figured of the natural size.

We cannot even add, with certainty, that it possesses the characteristic fragrance of the European Violet; which, however, appears highly probable.



ORIENTAL SHEEP.

Engd. by Thos. Bewick & Son for Thos. Bewick & Co. Newcastle Press.

ORIENTAL SHEEP.

THOUGH we have adopted the name under which this Sheep was first figured by Ludolfus, in his Historia Æthiopica, we are not entirely satisfied with so general an appellation as that of Ovis Orientalis, or the Oriental Sheep; since there are, in the Oriental regions, several other species or varieties, and even this is also found in Africa. It ought rather, perhaps, to be called the Broad-Tailed Sheep: which is an appellation it seems to have obtained in the Linnæan system, where it is denominated Ovis Aries Laticaudata; though not always sufficiently distinguished from the Ovis Aries Steatopyga, or Fat-Rumped Sheep.

We learn, from Ludolfus, that this wonderful species of Sheep is seen both in the East and in Africa; that the tail is so fat, that it never weighs less than ten or twelve pounds; that the largest tails are sometimes known to weigh forty pounds; and that, on such occasions, it becomes necessary to support the tail by a small car, that the animal may more commodiously carry it's tail, which might be torn or otherwise injured by dragging along the

the ground. This species, he tells us, is in the Hebrew language called Alja. The common kind of Sheep, he adds, according to Bochart, were called, by the Hebrews, Zanab.

This common kind, we apprehend, is the Fat-Rumped Sheep; as he refers his readers to Exodus xxix. 22. and Leviticus vii. 3. and ix. 19. where the fat of the rump is mentioned in the account of the Jewish sacrifices.

Many authors have noticed these Sheep; and some of our best systematic writers have separated them from each other, as evident varieties. Linnæus, however, is to be excepted: for which, we cannot unite with Buffon in giving him our approbation.

"Ray, and Brisson," says the great French naturalist, "have made two distinct species of the Broad-Tailed and the Long-Tailed Sheep; but Linnæus has properly reduced them to one."

Our judicious countryman, Pennant, though he treats them as varieties, does not, in our opinion, sufficiently discriminate between them.

His

His descriptions, however, are tolerably accurate; but their histories seem too intimately blended. This, indeed, as it appears to us, is more or less the case with almost every writer on the subject. We know of no one who has, in general, distinguished better between them, than the ingenious Mr. Kerr, in his translation of the Systema Naturæ; which we greatly regret that this gentleman was not encouraged to finish, as it would probably have been a credit to our country, and the neglect is little less than a national reproach.

"The Broad-Tailed Sheep, or Ovis Aries Laticaudata," Mr. Kerr observes, "has a long and very broad tail. It is common in Syria, Barbary, and Æthiopia, in Thibet, and among the Tartars. The tails are often so long as to trail on the ground; and to require a piece of board, with wheels, to keep them from galling: they are sometimes pointed at the end, but mostly square or rounded; and are reckoned a great delicacy, being composed of a substance between fat and marrow, and sometimes weigh fifty pounds. Those of Thibet produce the very fine wool of which shawls are manufactured; but their tails, though

though broad, are not nearly so long as the others.

"The Fat-Rumped Sheep, or Ovis Aries Steatopyga," he remarks, "has two large, naked, hemispherical prominences, on the buttocks, and no tail, with pendant ears. This singular breed is common among the Tartars, from the Volga to the Irtish, and to the Altaic mountains. They have curled horns, like the Common Sheep; pendulous ears; arched noses; and wattles on the neck. The wool is long, and coarse: the head is black; and the ears are white, edged with black. They grow to a large size, sometimes weighing two hundred pounds: and are usually white; but, sometimes, black, reddish, or spotted. The great prominences on the buttocks are entirely composed of fat.

"These two kinds of Sheep," adds Mr. Kerr, "the Broad-Tailed and Fat-Rumped varieties, are not distinguished by Dr. Gmelin, in his edition of the Systema Naturæ; though they are, evidently, as widely different, at least, as some of the other varieties. He says, that in general they are white; sometimes black,

brown,

brown, or spotted; and very seldom grey, or hoary: that they are cultivated among the various wandering hordes of Tartars; particularly, among the Kirgisians; and are, likewise, found over the whole East, in Persia, China, Syria, Arabia, and Egypt. He adds that, instead of a tail, of which only the coccyx is to be found, they are furnished with a large and thick bundle of fat, which sometimes exceeds thirty pounds in weight. He quotes the following authors and synonimes, without any distinction: of which, all seem to refer to the Broad-Tailed variety, except Pallas; who evidently means, by Ovis Steatopyga, the Fat-Rumped Sheep with hardly any tail, the fat being placed in two large bunches on the buttocks, while in the Broad-Tailed Sheep the vast mass of fat is confined to the tail itself.

" Ovis Platyura Arabica, Russsel, Alep. 51.
" t. 52.—Οις Αραβιος, Ælian, An. x. c. 4.—
" Ovis Arabiae. Aldrov. Bis. 404. f. p. 405.
" —Ovis Turcica, Charlet. Exerc. 9. Ovis
" Cauda Obesa, Ludolf. Æth. i. c. 10. n. 14.
" —Ovis Laticauda, Raj. Quad. 74. J. G.
" Gmelin, Nov. Com. Petrop. v. 343. t. 8.
" Briss. Regn. An. 75. n. 2.—Aries. S. Ovis
" Ργατυκιρως Orientalis, Klein, Quad. 74.—

" Ovis

" Ovis Laticauda, Platyceros, S. Arabica,
" Amoen, Ac. iv. 173. Broad-Tailed Sheep,
" Shaw, It. 241.—Arabisches. Schaaf. Gesn.
" Thierb. 326.—Hiesege Schaafe, Osb. Os-
" tind. 188.—Schaaf deren Schwaentz Gar
" Feisst, Rawolf. It. iii. 26.—Broad-Tailed
" Sheep, Penn. Hist. of Quad. n. 11. G.
" Fat-Rumped Sheep, Ditto, n. 11. H.—
" Ovis Steatopyga, Aries Kirgisicus, Pall,
" Spic. Zool. xi. 63. t. 4. f. 1. 2. a. b."

We do not entirely agree with Mr. Kerr, that "all these seem to refer to the Broad-Tailed variety, except Pallas:" but think, if we had leisure, we could easily establish several other exceptions; that of Pennant, demonstrates itself.

To us it appears, that there is, probably, even a specific difference, between the Broad-Tailed and the Fat-Rumped Sheep; as, besides the longer legs in proportion, the difference of the tail, the pendulous ears, the arched nose, and the variety of colour, in this last animal, the wattles on the neck would to us appear almost decisive of a distinct species, or at least strongly marked variety.

ARCTIC BIRD.

ndon, Published Decr 1 1800, by Harrison, Cluse, & Co. No 108, Newgate Street.

ARCTIC BIRD.

WE have figured this bird, from Edwards, under the name which it has received from that excellent ornithologist; who, we think, gives good reasons for separating it from the Gulls, though it has been arranged with them by almost every other naturalist.

"This bird," says Edwards, "seems to exceed, in bigness, a common Tame Pigeon. Some of it's principal measures are as follows —The bill, from the point to the angles of the mouth, is one inch and a half; to the feathers on the forehead, only an inch—the wing, when closed, is twelve inches long—the middle feathers of the tail are thirteen inches long—the leg, from the knee downwards, is near two inches—the middle-toe, an inch and a quarter. This bird differs from the Gull—[Larus]—in having a different-made bill, and weaker legs, and shorter toes in proportion to the legs; for the middle-toe, in the Gull, generally exceeds the length of the leg. This being found in the Northern parts of America, near the Arc-

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Male. Indeed, though Edwards supposes them to be the Cock and Hen of this species, he intimates some little doubt of the fact, and we are far from feeling quite certain that he may not have been mistaken. The suggestion, however, is extremely natural; as, according to Edwards, "the principal difference is, it's wanting those two long feathers found in the tail of the supposed Cock."

GREAT PEACOCK MOTH.

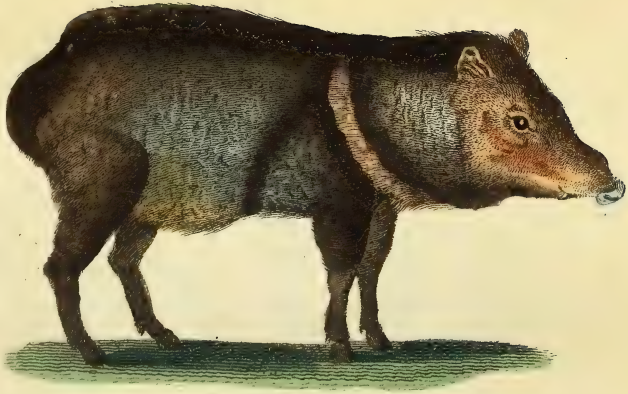
London, Published Dec.r 4 - 1800, by Harrison, Cluse, & Co. W.r 108, Newgate Street.

GREAT PEACOCK MOTH.

THE grand and beautiful Moth, which we have accurately delineated, on a reduced scale, in the annexed figure, naturally arranges itself in that genus of these insects, which are denominated Peacocks, on account of the variegated eye-like spot which enriches the appearance of their wings.

It is a native of Africa; and the original Moth, which was brought from Sierra Leona, measured rather more than eight inches, from tip to tip of the expanded wings.

We are unacquainted with it's appearance in either the Caterpillar or Chrysalis state; and, indeed, know nothing of it's history, even as a Moth. Want of such information, as to foreign insects in general, is almost constantly to be regretted!



PECARY.

London, Published Decr. 1st 1800, by Harrison, Cluse, No. 108, Newgate Street.

PECARY.

IT has been remarked, that few animals have received such a variety of names as the Pecary: which is the Sus Tajassu, of Linnæus; the Aper Mexicanus, of Faber, and of Brisson; the Tajaçu, Sus Minor, or Cochon Noir, of Barrere; the Porcus Moschiferus, of Klein; the Sus Umbilico in Dorso, or Hog with the Navel on it's Back, of Aldrovandus; the Quakuatl, or Quauhioyamatl, of Fernandez; the Quahtla, Coymatl, or Quapizotl, of Hernandez; the Tajassoub Sanglier, of Thevet; the Zainus, Saino, or Zaino, of Nieremberg, and of Johnston; the Tajaçu, or Caaigora, of Marcgrave, and of Piso; the Tjaçu, or Aper Mexicanus Moschiferus, of Ray; the Javari, Paquire, or Paquiras, of Rochefort, and of Gumiella; the Pingo, of Firmin; the Pecary, Tajaçu, or Mexican Hog, of Buffon, of Wafer, of Des Marchais, and of Bancroft; and the Mexican Hog, of Pennant. It is to be remarked, that the travellers, in general, have called this animal, as is usual with them, by the native names, in the respective places where they have met with it; and, that the naturalists have, in consequence of such information,

adopted

adopted those appellations which best pleased them, or endeavoured to form new ones more characteristically descriptive. The most common European name, Pecary, seems to be derived from Paquiras; which is said, by Gumilla, to be it's Indian name, in the country of the Amazons. The French call it Pecari, or the Sanglier Pecari; at the Bay of All Saints, according to Dampier, it is called Pelas; at Tobago, according to Rochefort, Javari, or Paquire; by the Savages of Brasil, according to Lery, Tajassou: and, in several places of America, according to Joseph Acosta, Saino, or Zaino; to Oviedo, Chuchie; and, to Coreal, Coscui.

Buffon observes, that this is the most numerous, as well as the most remarkable animal, in the New World. "It has," says he, "been called the Boar, or Hog, of America. It constitutes, however, a different species; for, from repeated trials, it has been found, that it does not intermix either with our wild or domestic kinds. It likewise differs from the Hog in several essential characters, both external and internal: it is not so corpulent, and it's legs are shorter; the form of it's stomach,

stomach, and it's intestines, are also different; it has no tail; it's bristles are much coarser than those of the Wild Boar; and, lastly, on it's back, near the crupper, there is an orifice, about three lines broad, and more than an inch deep, from which flows, very copiously, an ichorous humour, of a very disagreeable smell. No other animal has an aperture in this region of the body: the Civets, the Badger, and the Genet, have the reservoir of their perfume under the organs of generation; and the Canadian Musk Rat, and the Musk Animal, have it under the belly. The liquor which issues from the dorsal aperture of the Mexican Hog is secreted by a number of large glands, which are well described by M. Daubenton, and by Dr. Tyson. It is unnecessary to give in detail the observations of these acute anatomists. It shall only be remarked, that Dr. Tyson is wrong, in asserting that this animal has three stomachs; or, as Mr. Ray expresses it, a gizzard, and two stomachs. M. Daubenton has clearly demonstrated, that ithas but one stomach; divided by two strangulations, which give it the appearance of three: that only one of these three bags has a pylorus, or aperture for allow-

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ing the descent of the aliment into the other intestines; and, consequently, that the other two should be regarded as appendages, or rather portions, of the same stomach.

"The Mexican Hog might be rendered domestic, as well as the common kind. It is nearly of the same dispositions; feeds on the same nourishment; and it's flesh, though drier, and less loaded with fat, is by no means disagreeable; but, when the flesh is intended to be eaten, not only the organs of generation, as is practised on the Wild Boar, but the whole dorsal glands of both Male and Female, should be cut off instantly after death; as the retention of them for a single half hour, gives the meat an odour so strong as to render it uneatable.

"These animals are very numerous in all the warm climates of South America. They go in herds, which sometimes amount to two or three hundred. For defending themselves, and repelling those who want to deprive them of their young, they are endowed with the same instincts as the Common Hog. They mutually assist each other: they surround their

enemies,

enemies, and often wound the dogs and the hunters. They live on fruits, seeds, and roots. They likewise eat Serpents, Toads, and Lizards; the skins of which they previously tear off. They produce a great number at a time. The young soon follow their mother, and never separate from her till they are full-grown. When taken young, they are easily tamed; and never quarrel, except when a number of them are presented with victuals in the same trough. When angry, their grunting is stronger, and harder, than that of the Common Hog. Their breath is very strong; and, when they are irritated, their hair rises; which is so coarse, that it rather resembles the prickles of a Hedgehog, than the bristles of the Wild-Boar.

"Ray, and other authors, maintain that the liquor, secreted by the dorsal glands of the Mexican Hog, is a kind of musk; an agreeable perfume, even when it issues from the body of the animal; that it is perceived at a great distance; and that it perfumes the place where it inhabits, or through which it passes: but, on the contrary, I have a thousand times experienced, that the odour of this liquor is

so nauseous, that we could neither smell nor collect it without extreme disgust. It seems only to become less fetid by drying in the air; but it never assumes the agreeable odour of Musk, or of Civet; and naturalists would have made a nearer approach to truth, if they had compared it to that of Castoreum."

Buffon adds, by way of supplement—" M. De la Borde remarks that, in Cayenne, there are two distinct species of the Pecary, or Mexican Hog, which never intermix. " The " largest kind," says he, " has white hair on " it's chaps; and, on each side of the jaw, " there is a round white spot, of the size of a " small crown-piece: the rest of the body is " black; and the animal weighs about one " hundred pounds. The smaller species has " reddish hair, and weighs not above sixty " pounds."

" It is the largest species," says Buffon, " which is here represented: and, with regard to the smaller kind, the difference of colour and size, mentioned by M. De la Borde, must be only a variety produced by age, or some other accidental circumstance."

M. De

M. De la Borde says, that the large kind runs not, like the small, after Dogs and Men; that both species inhabit the large woods, going in flocks of two or three hundred; that they feed on the mountains during the rainy season, and afterwards frequent the low and marshy grounds; that they devour fruits, seeds, and roots, and dig in the mire for worms and insects; that they are hunted, without dogs, by the track of their feet; that, instead of flying, they assemble together, and are easily shot, often giving the hunters an opportunity to fire several times; that they frequently swim across large rivers, and make great havock in the plantations; that their flesh has an excellent taste, but is not so tender as that of the Domestic Hog; that it resembles the flesh of the Hare, and is without lard or grease; that, when the animal is killed, the dorsal gland should be instantly cut out; and, that the Females bring forth in all seasons, but only two at a litter.

This gentleman also mentions another species of Hog, called the Patira; which, he says, is found in Guiana: it is the size of the smaller species, and only differs by having a white

white line all along the back; associates in families, but not in flocks; defends itself with courage against the hunters; hides in hollow trees, or the Armadillo's holes, &c. in the earth; has flesh superior to that of other Hogs; and, when taken young, is easily tamed, but preserves a mortal antipathy to Dogs, and constantly attacks them.

The Jaguar, or American Leopard, is said to be the mortal enemy of the Pecary: this, in it's turn, is as mortal an enemy to the Rattle-Snake; which it skins, dexterously, with it's feet and teeth, and then greedily devours.

The general colour of the Pecary is a sort of dusky brown, approaching to black, mixed or mottled with yellowish white; each particular bristle being ringed, somewhat like the spines of the Hedgehog. The bristles on the back, are sometimes five inches long; those on the sides are shorter, and the belly is almost naked. From the shoulders to the breast is a remarkable band, or collar, interrupted on the back, of a lighter or dirty whitish brown colour, sometimes varying to a reddish yellow.

BLACK & BLUE CREEPER.

don, Published Dec.r 1st 1800 by Harrison, Cluse, & Co. No. 108, Newgate Str

BLACK AND BLUE CREEPER.

THE annexed figure of this fine bird, is very ittle reduced from Edwards's original drawng of the natural size.

It is the Certhia Cyanea, of Linnæus; the Certhia Brasiliensis Cœrulea, of Brisson; the Guira-Coereba, of Marcgrave, Ray, and Willughby; the Black and Blue Guit-Guit, of Buffon; and the Black and Blue Creeper, of Edwards and of Latham.

Edwards appears to have had very little knowledge of this bird's history. He tells us that, in 1753, the bird was lent to him by Mr. Milan, who had it preserved very perfect: and, beneath the print, it is said to be a native of Surinam; though that circumstance is omitted in his description, which is as follows—

"The bill of the Black and Blue Creeper," says Edwards, "is pointed; black; pretty long; slender; sharp; and arched, both upper and

and under side, which last is a little shorter than the upper. The tongue is divided into threads at the end. The crown of the head is of a pale green colour. Round the base of the upper part of the bill are black feathers, which pass in black lines on the sides of the head; in which black spaces, the eyes are placed. The sides of the head, hinder part of the neck, lower part of the back, rump, covert-feathers of the tail, a bar across the upper part of the wing, and the whole under side of the bird, are of a very fine ultramarine blue colour. It has a broad black line across the lower part of the neck behind, or the upper part of the back. The tail is black; as are the outer sides of the wings, except a blue bar that crosses each wing obliquely. The insides of the wings are of a beautiful yellow colour; except round the ridges, and the tips of the quills, which are dusky. The legs and feet are orange-coloured. I take," adds Edwards, "this bird to be the Guira-Coereba of Marcgrave. See his History of Brasil, and Willughby's Ornithology. I believe, no figure has been given of this bird by former authors. Petiver has given a figure of a bird of this family,

family, which he calls—Tomineo Capensis Major Capite Luteo."

Buffon makes this bird his first species of a new genus, which he calls the American Guit-Guits. "It is," he says, "an American name, applied to one or two of this tribe, containing the Creepers of the New Continent. I shall use it as a generical appellation. I have already noticed some differences that obtain between them and the Humming Birds: I may add, that they neither fly in the same manner, nor sip the nectar of flowers. Yet, the Creoles at Cayenne frequently confound them; and we should, therefore, be aware of this circumstance, in reading the relations of travellers. I am assured, that the Guit-Guits of Cayenne never climb on trees—that they live in flocks, not only of their own kind, but also with other birds; such as the little Tanagres, Nuthatches, Picucullas, &c.—and, that they feed not only on insects, but on fruits, and even on buds."

To this account of the genus, we must add Buffon's history and description of the particular

cular species now under our consideration; which will include all that appears to be known on the subject.

"The face of this beautiful bird," says Buffon, "is of a brilliant sea-green; there is a bar on the eyes, of velvet black: the rest of the head, the throat, and all the under part of the body—without exception, according to Edwards—the lower part of the back, and the superior coverts of the tail, are of an ultramarine blue; which is the only colour that appears when the feathers are regularly disposed, though each has three colours—according to the remark of Brisson—brown at the base, green in the middle, and blue at the extremity. The top of the back, the part of the neck contiguous to the back, and the tail, are velvet black. What appears of the wings, when they are closed, is of the same black; except a blue bar, which crosses their coverts obliquely. The inner side of the quills of the wings, and their inferior coverts, are of a fine yellow; so that the wings, which seem entirely black when at rest, appear variegated with black and yellow when displayed or in motion

The

The inferior coverts of the tail are of a dull black; and not blue, as Brisson represents. The bill is black: and the legs are, sometimes, red; sometimes, orange; sometimes, yellow; and, occasionally, whitish.

"It appears, from this description," remarks Buffon, "that the colours of the plumage are subject to vary, in different specimens. In some, the throat is mixed with brown; in others, it is black. In general, the distribution of the black seems the most irregular: the blue sometimes assumes a violet tinge.

"Marcgrave observes, that the eyes are black; that the tongue is terminated by many filaments; that the feathers on the back are silky; and, that the bird is nearly as large as the Chaffinch. He saw it in Brasil; but it occurs, also, in Guiana and Cayenne. In the Female, the wings have a coat of yellowish grey."

The total length of this bird, according to Buffon, is four inches and a quarter. The bill,

bill, he says, is eight or nine lines; the tarsus, six or seven; the middle toe, is six, and a very little longer than the hind-toe; the alar extent, six inches and three-quarters; and the tail, which is fifteen lines, consists of twelve equal quills, and extends three or four lines beyond the wings.

HONEY SUCKLE OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Lon. Published Dec.r 11. 1800 by Harrison, Cluse, & Co. No. 108, Newgate Stre

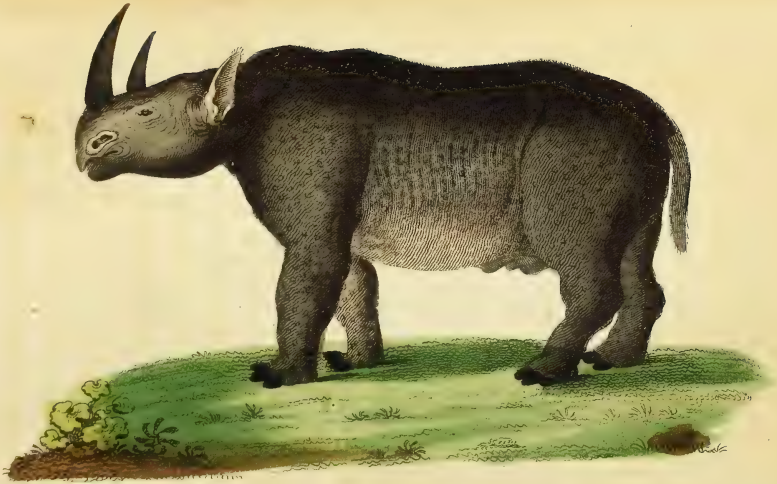
HONEY-SUCKLE,

OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

OUR original drawing of this elegant little shrub, which is exactly copied in the print annexed, was said to be of nearly the natural size: so that it is smaller than the European Honey-Suckle, which it otherwise much resembles.

It is stated to be a perennial; to rise about five feet in height; and to be found in greatest plenty on the richer grounds.

We are not informed, that it's fragrance resembles that of our Honey-Suckle; nor, indeed, do we known with certainty that it is a parasitical plant. Both are probable; but we cannot give, as facts, what we possess not good authority for stating to be so.



TWO HORNED RHINOCEROS.

London, Published Dec.r 18 1800, by Harrison, Cluse, & Co. Wood, Newgate Street.

TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS.

IT is not a little singular, that the acute and intelligent Edwards, when he figured his Rhinoceros with a single Horn, in 1752, was disposed to believe, that there then existed no actual species of the Rhinoceros with a double horn; and that, where the two horns occurred, it might rather be considered as an accidental circumstance, or mere Lusus Naturæ. On the contrary, Monsieur Geoffroy, in his celebrated Magazin Encyclopédique, ingeniously suggests, that there have existed, if they do not even at present exist, no less than five different species of the Rhinoceros; which he thus enumerates—1. The Rhinoceros Africanus Cornu Gemino, or Twin-Horned African Rhinoceros, of Camper; who, in the Transactions of the Royal Academy at Petersburgh, for the year 1777, gives a figure of the skull. 2. The species which was found fossil in Siberia; and which, as Monsieur Geoffroy ably maintains, differs from the common Two-Horned Rhinoceros, though it belongs to that division of the

the genus. 3. The Rhinoceros with a single horn, which is described, and the skull figured, by Camper, in the aforesaid volume of the Petersburgh Transactions; and which is confounded, even by Camper himself, with the Common Rhinoceros. 4. The Common Single-Horned Asiatic Rhinoceros. 5. The Sumatran Rhinoceros, with two horns; figured and described by Mr. Bell, in the Philosophical Transactions for 1793.

Linnæus makes but two species: the Rhinoceros Unicornis, or One-Horned Rhinoceros; and the Rhinoceros Bicornes, or Two-Horned Rhinoceros. Pennant, also, recognizes only these two species. The former, however, must of necessity have been an entire stranger to much recent information on the subject. Even Pennant's History of Quadrupeds had reached the third edition, in the very same year as Mr. Bell's account of the Sumatran Rhinoceros was published; and, most probably, some months previous to it's appearance: he might, otherwise, have inclined to sever the Sumatran Rhinoceros, as at least a variety, if not a different species, agreeably

to

to the opinion of some subsequent naturalists.

The History and description which Pennant has collected of the Two-Horned Rhinoceros, is very respectable; and, perhaps, on the whole, the best extant. We shall therefore adopt it, with his figure. "It has," says he, "two horns, placed one beyond the other. The length of the fore-horn of one in the Philosophical Transactions, is twenty inches; of the second horn, nineteen: but they vary in sizes. The upper lip is short, reaching but a little way over the lower. It has no fore-teeth. The skin is without any plicæ, or folds; appears much granulated, or warty; and is of a deeply cinereous grey colour. Between the legs, it is smooth, and flesh-coloured; in other parts, there are a few scattered stiff bristles; most numerous about the ears, and at the end of the tail. The tail, which is as thick as a thumb, is convex above and below, but flatted on the sides. The feet are no more in diameter than the legs; but the three hoofs project forward: the soles are callous.

"It inhabits Africa; and was observed, first,

first, by Flacourt, in the Bay of Saldagne, near the Cape: within these few years, by Dr. Sparman, a learned Swede, at some distance north of that promontory. With the laudable perseverance of a naturalist, Dr. Sparman watched the arrival of this and other animals at a muddy water; whither the wild beasts resort, to quench their thirst, and some to indulge, in that hot climate, in rolling in the mud. In that spot, he shot two of these animals. One was so large, that the united force of five men could not turn it. The lesser he measured: it's length was eleven feet and a half; the girth twelve; and the height, between six and seven.

"The skin, which is quite naked, is very strong and thick, but is easily penetrated with an iron bullet; one of lead is flattened against the hide. The Hottentots, at present, always kill these animals by a musquet shot, and the skin is capable of being transfixed with the lance or dart. The Hottentots usually hasten the death of the Rhinoceros, by taking care to poison the weapon.

"This

"This species seems to agree in manners with the One-Horned Rhinoceros. It's flesh is eatable, and tastes like coarse pork. Cups are made of the horns; and, of the hides, whips. It's food is boughs of trees, which it bites into bits of the size of a finger. It feeds also much on succulent plants: especially the Stinking Stapelia; and a species of Stœbe, called the Stœbe Rhinocerotis. It continues, during the day, in a state of rest: in the evenings and mornings—perhaps, the whole night—wanders in quest of food, or in search of places to roll in. It has no voice, only a sort of snorting, which was observed in Females anxious for their young. It's dung is like that of Horses: it has a great propensity to cleanliness; dropping it's dung and urine only in particular places. It's sense of sight is bad: those of hearing and smelling are very exquisite. The least noise, or scent, puts the animal in motion. It instantly runs to the spot from which those two senses take the alarm; and whatsoever it meets with, in it's course, it overturns, and tramples on. Men, Oxen, and Waggons, have thus been overturned; and, sometimes, destroyed. It never returns to repeat the charge;

charge; but keeps on it's way: so that a senseless impulse, more than rage, seems the cause of the mischief it does.

"This was the species described by Martial, under the name of Rhinoceros Cornu Gemino; who relates it's combat with the Bear. In fact, the Romans procured their Rhinoceroses from Africa only; which was the reason why they are represented with double horns. That figured in the Prenestine Pavement, and that on a Coin of Domitian, have two horns; that which Pausanias describes under the name of the Æthiopian Bull, had one horn on the nose, and another, lesser, higher up; and Cosmas Ægypticus, who travelled into Æthiopia, in the reign of Justinian, also attributes to it the same number: whereas Pliny, who describes the Indian kind, justly gives it but a single horn. Cosmas says, that it's skin was so thick and hard, that the Æthiopians ploughed with it; and, that they called the animal Aru, and Harifi; the last signifying the figure of the nostrils, and the use made of the skin. He adds that, when the beast is quiescent, the horns are loose: but,

in

in it's rage, become firm and immoveable. This is confirmed by Dr. Sparman, who observed that they were fixed to the head, or rather nose, by a strong apparatus of sinews and muscles, so as to afford the animal the power of giving a steady fixture whenever occasion demanded. Augustus introduced a Rhinoceros—probably, of this kind—into the shews, on occasion of his triumph over Cleopatra.

"Mr. Bruce's figure of a Rhinoceros," observes Pennant, with much sarcastic severity, "lies under some suspicion of being most faithfully copied from the single-horned species of M. De Buffon; with the long upper lip, and every characteristic fold and plait: but, by the addition of another horn, it becomes Bicornis; and, as Mr. Bruce, very justly, twice observes, the first drawing of the kind ever presented to the public!" So true is the old saying—"Semper aliquid novi Africam afferre!"—["There is always something new coming from Africa!"]

"I am indebted to Mr. Paterson for my figure

figure of the two-horned species. It does not differ materially from that by Dr. Sparman; unless in the lateral marks that distinguish the former, and seem no more than a looseness of skin. M. Allamand had engraved the same animal from a drawing communicated to him by Colonel Gordon, the great explorer of Caffraria: and M. De Buffon again copied his plate from a drawing, in which the looseness of the skin on the sides is far better expressed.

"I will not quit the subject," concludes Pennant, "till I have laid before the public my reasons to imagine that this species is not confined to Africa. Mr. William Hudson, with his usual friendship, communicated to me the following remark of Mr. Charles Miller, who was long resident in Sumatra—"I "never saw but two of the Two-Horned Rhi-"noceroses. I believe they are not uncom-"mon in the island; but are very shy, which "is the reason they are seldom seen. I was "once within twenty yards of one. It had "not any appearance of folds or plaits on the "skin: and had a smaller horn, resembling "the greater; and, like that, a little turned "inward.

"inward. The figure given by Dr. Sparman "is a faithful resemblance of that I saw."

Had Pennant, or Mr. Miller, been acquainted with Mr. Bell's account of the Sumatran Two-Horned Rhinoceros, the resemblance would have struck them still more forcibly.

On the whole, it appears that both the One-Horned and the Two-Horned Rhinoceros, are found in Asia, where the former seems most plentiful: and, perhaps, as Mr. Bruce is of opinion, the Single-Horned Rhinoceros, may be found in many parts of Africa; where, however, it is considered as by no means so common. According to Buffon, however, "M. Allamand, a very able naturalist, wrote to M. Daubenton a Letter, dated at Leyden, October 31, 1766, in the following terms," which totally deranges this idea—"I recollect "a remark of M. Parsons, in a passage quoted "by M. De Buffon: he suspected that the "Rhinoceroses of Asia have but one horn, "and that those of the Cape of Good Hope "have two. I suspect the very opposite: the "heads of the Rhinoceroses which I received

"from

"from Bengal, and other parts of India, had "always double horns, and all those which "came from the Cape of Good Hope had "but one horn." This last passage," concludes Buffon, "proves what we have formerly remarked, that the Rhinoceroses with double horns form a variety in the species—a particular race—which is found equally in Asia and Africa."

In a communication from Mr. Bruce, to Buffon, that traveller observes, that "all the Rhinoceroses which he saw in Abyssinia had two horns: the first—that is, the one nearest the nose—of the common form; the second, sharp at the point, and always shorter than the first. "Both," says Mr. Bruce, "spring "at the same time; but the first grows more "quick, and exceeds the other in size, not "only during the time of growth, but during "the whole life of the animal."

Mr. Bruce gives this animal credit for a very ingenious stratagem to avoid the attacks of a small fly, which infests it's hide, and would otherwise soon prove fatal. "By rolling itself in the mud during the night," this celebrated

brated traveller tells us, " it clothes itself in a kind of case, which defends it from it's adversary for the following day." But, it seems, while thus engaged, " the pleasure which it receives from rolling in the mud, added to the darkness of the night, depriving it of it's usual vigilance and attention, the hunters steal secretly near, and pierce it with their javelins in the belly, where the wound is mortal."

The peculiar manner of Mr. Bruce's descriptions is apparent in the following extracts.

Speaking of the Rhinoceros's method of feeding in the vast forests of Africa, he says— " With his lip, and the assistance of his tongue, he pulls down the upper branches, which have most leaves, and these he devours first. Having stripped the tree of it's branches, he does not therefore abandon it: but, placing his snout as low in the trunk as he finds his horns will enter, he rips up the body of the tree, and reduces it to thin pieces, like so many laths; and, when he has thus prepared it, he embraces as mnch of it as he can in his monstrous jaws, and twists it round with as much ease as an Ox would do a root of celery!"

In

In describing it's excessive thirst—" No country," says our traveller, " but that of the Shangalla, which he possesses, deluged with six months rain, and full of large and deep basons, made in the living rock, and shaded by dark woods from evaporation, or watered by large and deep rivers, which never fall low or to a state of dryness, can supply the vast draughts of this monstrous creature!"

It's flight from wood to wood, is not less marvellously described—" The trees that are frush, or dry," says Mr. Bruce, " are broke down, like as with a cannon shot, and fall behind him, and on his side, in all directions. Others, that are more pliable, greener, or fuller of sap, are bent back by his weight and the velocity of his motions; and, after he has passed, restoring themselves, like a green branch, to their natural position, they sweep the incautious pursuer and his Horse from the ground, and dash them in pieces against the surrounding trees!"

We leave our readers to make their own comment.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.

London, Published Dec.r 18 1800, by Harrison, Cluse, & Co. No. 108, Newgate Street

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.

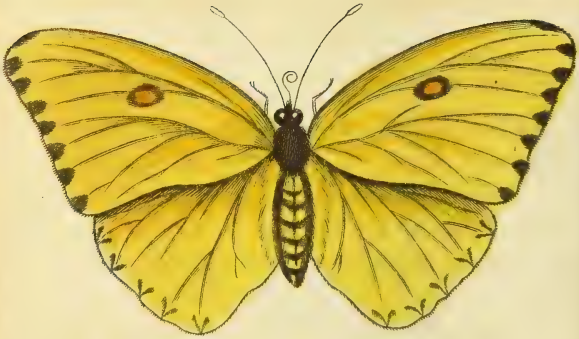
WE are indebted to Edwards for this bird; which, however, is one of the very few objects not figured from nature by his own hand. "The bird," he tells us, "is taken from a neat drawing in colours, done by Mr. William Bartram, of Philadelphia, in Pennsylvania." It was represented, in the original drawing, of the natural size, which is considerably larger than our Common House Sparrow.

The description published by Edwards, of this bird, which is the Passer Pennsylvanica of Linnæus, is as follows—

"It has a thick, short bill, such as granivorous birds generally have, of a blackish or dusky colour. From the corner of the mouth, through the eye, which is of a hazel-colour, passes a dusky line. Above the eye is an arch, of an orange-colour near the bill, but which gradually becomes white on the hinder part of the head. The throat, just beneath the bill, is white, where

where it is black in the Common Sparrow. The whole upper side, head, neck, back, tail, and wings, are of a reddish brown colour; the middle parts of the feathers being dusky, which makes an agreeable variety in the shades of the feathers. The edge of the upper part of the wing, next the breast, is tinged with a light yellow. The cheeks, breast, belly, thighs, and covert-feathers under the tail, are of a light or whitish ash-colour, without spots. The legs and feet are of a reddish flesh-colour.

"I have," adds Edwards, "never seen the bird; but thought Mr. Bartram's drawing of it very curious, and have reason to be satisfied as to his veracity and accuracy. I believe, it has not, till now, been known to us."



YELLOW CAROLINA BUTTERFLY.

n, Published Dec.r 18-1800, by Harrison, Cluse, & Co. No.108, Newgate Street.

YELLOW CAROLINA BUTTERFLY.

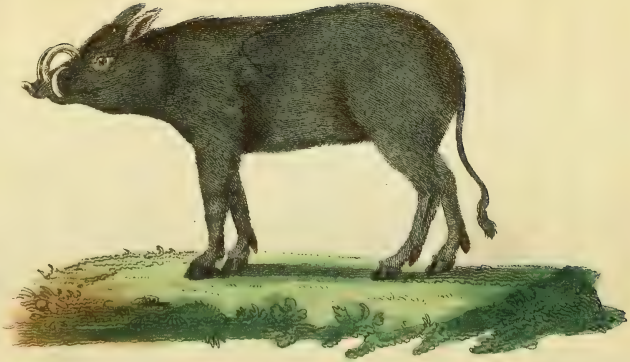
THIS Butterfly, which we have copied from Edwards, is of the natural size; and, from the action of the beneath figure, as seen in a flying state, a view is represented of the undersides of the superior and inferior wing.

Edwards informs us, that " the Fly was brought from Carolina, and engraved on the plate from nature." He afterwards mentions, that it came from " South Carolina;" and " believes it not, till now, known to us." He calls it, simply, " the Yellow Butterfly;" but we have thought it necessary somewhat better to distinguish it from the many other Butterflies of that general colour. It is thus described by Edwards—

" This Butterfly has the head red; the body brown; and the lower body, or tail, yellow, with a dusky line down it's upper side. The general colour of all the wings, both above and beneath, is yellow. The longer wings, in the middle

middle of their upper sides, have each a red spot, encompassed with dusky, and eight dusky spots, on their extreme borders. The shorter, or under wings, are marked round their borders with dusky spots in form of the letter V. The wings, on their under sides, are a little clouded with dusky marks; and each wing has, in it's middle part, two white spots, bordered with reddish."

He adds—" My obliging friend, Mr. Henry Baker, F. R. S. furnished me with this and the Little Yellow and Black Butterfly. He says, they were brought from South Carolina."



BABYROUSSA.

BABYROUSSA.

THIS very curious animal was not unknown to the ancients. It is the Ὑς Τετρακερως, of Ælian; the Apes-Indicus, of Pliny; the Strange Hog, with Horns, of Purchas; the Horned Hog, of Grew; the Apes Orientalis, of Brisson; the Eberhirsch, Hirscheber, of Knorr; the Babi-Raesa, of Seba; the Babi-roussa, or Indian Hog, of Buffon; and the Baby-Roussa, of Pennant.

As Buffon has collected a more compleat history of the Babyroussa, than any other writer, we shall extract it entire.

" Though," says he, " we have only the head of this animal in the Royal Cabinet, it is too remarkable to be passed over in silence. All naturalists have regarded it as a species of Hog; and yet, it has neither the head, the stature, the bristles, nor the tail, of a Hog. It's legs are longer, and it's snout is shorter. It is covered with short hair, as soft as wool; and

and it's tail terminates in a tuft. It's body, likewise, is neither so heavy, nor so thick, as that of the Hog. It's hair is grey; mixed with red, and a little black. It's ears are short, and pointed. But the most remarkable character, which distinguishes the Babyroussa from all other animals, consists in four large tusks, or canine teeth: the two shortest of which proceed, like those of the Wild Boar, from the under jaw; and the two longest, piercing the cheeks, or rather the lips, from the upper jaw, extend in a curve above the eyes. These tusks are a beautiful ivory; which is cleaner and finer than, but not so hard as, that of the Elephant.

"The direction of the two superior tusks, which first rise high, and then bend in the form of a circle, induced some able natural philosophers, such as Grew, to think that these tusks ought not to be regarded as teeth, but as horns. They founded their opinion on the circumstance that, in all animals, the sockets of the teeth in the upper jaw open downward; and that, in the Babyroussa, all the sockets likewise open downward, except those of the two

great

;reat tusks, which open upward: hence they onclude that, from this essential character of he upper teeth, these tusks, the sockets of which open upward, cannot be regarded as eeth, but as horns. These philosophers, however, were deceived. Position, or direction, are circumstances by no means essential o the existence of an object. These tusks, hough situated in a manner opposite to that of ther teeth, are still teeth: the singularity of heir direction cannot alter their nature, or onvert a true canine tooth into an ivory horn.

" These enormous quadruped tusks give his animal a formidable appearance; yet it is, erhaps, less dangerous than our Wild Boar. They go in herds; and have a strong odour, which betrays them to the Dogs, who often unt them with success. They growl in a rightful manner; and fight, and defend themelves, with their under tusks, the upper ones eing rather incommodious than serviceable to hem. Though brutal and ferocious, they are asily tamed; and their flesh, which is very ood, corrupts in a short time. As their hair s fine, and their skin thin, they make little resistance

sistance to the teeth of the dogs; who hunt them in preference to the Boar, and accomplish their purpose with ease. In order to rest their head, or to sleep in a standing posture, they hook their upper tusks to the branches of trees. This practice is common, to them and to the Elephant; which last, to repose without lying down, supports it's head, by putting the ends of it's tusks into holes that it digs for this purpose in the wall of it's apartment.

"The Babyroussa differs, likewise, from the Wild Boar, in natural appetites. It feeds on herbs, and the leaves of trees; and never enters the gardens, to devour pot-herbs: but the Boar, even in the same country, lives on wild fruits, and roots, and often lays waste the gardens. Besides, these animals, which go equally in herds, never intermix: the Wild Boars keep to one side, and the Babyroussas to the other. The latter walk lightly; have a very fine scent; and often rise erect against the trees, in order to smell at a distance the approach of Dogs or hunters. When hard pursued, they run into the sea; where, by swimming with as much facility as Ducks, and even

even diving, they often escape the hunters: for, they swim a long time; and, sometimes, to great distances, from one island to another.

" The Babyroussa is found, not only in the Island of Bouro, or Boero, near Amboyna, but in several other parts of the south of Asia and Africa; as, in Celebes, Estrila, Senegal, and Madagascar: for, it appears that the Wild Boars of this last island, mentioned by Flacourt, " the Males of which," he remarks, " have " chiefly two horns on the side of the nose," are Babyroussas. We have not been able to determine, whether the Females be deprived of these two tusks, which are so remarkable in the Male."

Buffon, who acknowledges that most of the facts which he has related in this history of the Babyroussa, are taken from Valentine's description of the East-Indies, adds the following supplementary remarks respecting it's figure, which we have copied—" We are now," says he—in allusion to not before possessing any more than the head of this animal —" enabled to give a figure of the Babyroussa,

roussa, from two drawings: one of which was transmitted to us by M. Sonnerat, where the animal is represented in a standing posture; and the other, which is lying on it's belly, was sent to us from England, by Mr. Pennant. This last drawing was accompanied by the following description—" A Babyroussa, from " the Island of Banda, drawn after nature. " It's colour is blackish: it grows to the size " of the largest Hog; and it's flesh is very " good to eat." Our figure," concludes Buffon, " is a combination of both drawings; and, though it cannot be perfectly exact, it exhibits a pretty just idea of the animal."

Pennant has not, in his own history of this animal, made the smallest mention of it's colour. He says, " along the back are some weak bristles; on the rest of the body, only a sort of wool, such as is on Lambs; the tail, which is long, ends in a tuft, and is often twisted. His description of the teeth, however, is more particular than that of Buffon— " It has," he says, " four cutting-teeth in the upper, six in the lower; ten grinders to each jaw; in the lower jaw, two tusks pointing towards

wards the eyes, and standing nearly eight inches out of their sockets; and, from two sockets on the outside of the upper jaw, are two other teeth, twelve inches long, bending like horns, their ends almost touching the forehead."

In what Pennant observes, as to the residence of the Babyroussa, we cannot think him sufficiently correct; and consider his censure of Buffon as quite unfounded. He says, —" it inhabits Boero, a small isle near Amboyna: but neither on the continent of Asia, nor Africa; what M. De Buffon takes for it, is the Æthiopian Boar." Who would imagine, from this, that Pennant had ever seen Valentine's History of the East Indies, from which he also says he has taken his natural history of this animal; where it is expressly asserted, that " the Babyroussas are numerous in the islands of Boero, Cajely, Xoelasche, Xoela, Mangoli, Bangay, on the west coast of Celebes, and in Manado?"

That it is also found at Senegal, seems sufficiently certain—" I at last perceived," says M. Adanson,

M. Adanson, " one of those enormous Wild Boars which are peculiar to Africa. It was black, like those of Europe; but, in stature, it was vastly taller. It had four large tusks; the two superior of which bent in a circular form toward the front, and had the appearance of horns." This, surely, could be no other than the Babyroussa; though M. Adanson is mistaken, in calling it the Wild Boar peculiar to Africa.

THREE TOED WOODPECKER.

London Published [illegible] by Harrison Cluse & Co. No. 18 Newgate Street

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER.

THE original figure of this bird was drawn by Edwards, of the natural size: we have been under the necessity of considerably reducing it; but, in other respects, our figure is the same.

Edwards observes, that this bird "agrees in magnitude with our Greatest Spotted Woodpecker; or Fire-Tail, as it is in some places called.

"Two of these birds," continues he, "were brought from Hudson's Bay, by Mr. Isham; and another I have seen in the hands of Mr. Henry Baker, F. R. S. which all agree in the structure of their feet, as well as in other respects. I had imagined this bird to be a non-descript; but believe I am mistaken: for, happening to see a Natural History of Sweden, by Carolus Linnæus; published at Leyden, Ann. 1746; I find a Woodpecker described, which very nearly answers my description. He gives it's name and place thus: "Picus

"Pedibus

"Pedibus Tridactylis, habitat in Alpibus Da-
"lekarlicis." This he extracts from Acad. Stockholm 1740. So that it is an inhabitant of the very northern parts both of Europe and America. As the above-mentioned author has given no figure of this bird," adds Edwards, "this draught is, I believe, the first that has been exhibited."

We shall transcribe the entire description given by Edwards of this bird; which, with what we have already extracted, will include all that he has said on the subject—

"It's bill is shaped as in all others of this genus; being, as it were, cut off at the point, where it has something like the edge of a chissel in a perpendicular direction: it is of a dirty flesh-colour, black at the point. The nostrils are covered with stiff black feathers growing forwards over them. The crown of the head is of a gold colour. The sides of the head, the upper part of the neck, the back, and upper side of the tail and wings, are black. From behind the eyes, proceed faintish white lines tending downwards; from the angles of the

the mouth, there proceed also white lines, passing beneath the eyes. On the hinder part of the head, in the middle of the back, and on the rump, some of the black feathers have white tips. The outer or greater quills are spotted on their webs with white spots; the spots small on the outer webs, and larger on the inner. The middle quills are black: but those next the back are variegated black and white, as are the three outermost feathers on each side of the tail. The under-side, from bill to tail, is white. The inner coverts of the wings, and the sides of the body, are variegated with transverse waved lines of black and white. The legs, feet, and claws, are of a brown colour. What is most extraordinary in this bird, is it's having only three toes; two standing forward, and one backward: all others of this tribe, I have met with, having two forward, and two backward. The back toe of this bird, in consideration of it's being single, is stronger than either of those forward, and is armed with a longer claw. This bird may be known from all others, the feet being singular; and it is the only one I have met with, having feet so formed. There are, indeed,

deed, many birds with only three toes on a foot, but they have them all standing forwards."

This Three-Toed Woodpecker of Edwards, appears to be that variety of the Picus Tridactylus of Linnæus, which Latham denominates the Southern Three-Toed Woodpecker.

Buffon, who calls it the Variegated Undated Woodpecker, describes it neatly enough in a very few words—"The plumage," says he, "resembles that of the Spotted Woodpecker. The back is black; with white disposed in waves, or rather scales, on the great quills of the wing: and these two colours form, when it is closed, a checked bar. The under side of the body is white, variegated on the sides with black scales. Two white streaks stretch backwards; one from the eye, the other from the bill: and the top of the head is red."

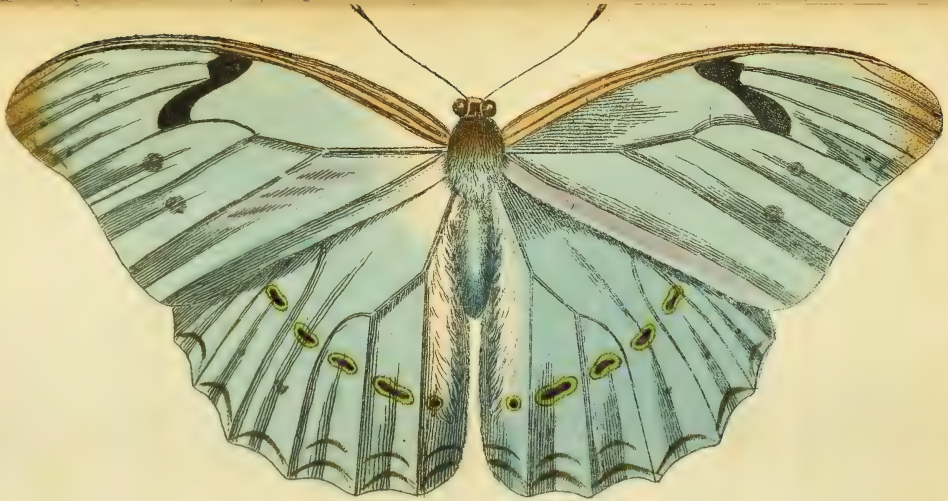
It seems scarcely necessary to remark, that the scales mentioned by Buffon, are only meant to describe the scale-like appearance of the waved or variegated feathers; for they are

are not like scales, but like the appearance of scales: and, that the red on the crown of the head is an orange red, or gold-colour, as is more accurately noticed by Edwards.

"The figure of this bird," says Buffon, "agrees perfectly with Brisson's description of the Variegated Cayenne Woodpecker; except that the former has four toes, as usual, and the latter only three. We cannot, however, doubt the existence of Three-Toed Woodpeckers. Linnæus describes one found in Dalecarlia; Schmidt, one in Siberia; and we are informed, by Lottinger, that it occurs also in Switzerland. The Three-Toed Woodpecker appears, therefore, to inhabit the north of both continents. Ought the want of the toe to be regarded as a specific character, or considered as only an accidental defect? It would require a great many observations, to answer that question. But it may be denied that the same bird inhabits, also, the equatorial regions; though, after Brisson, it is termed the Spotted Cayenne Woodpecker, in the Planches Enluminées."

We

We differ in opinion with Buffon, as to the number of observations necessary for answering his question; the simple remark of Edwards, that the back toe is stronger, and armed with a longer claw than the others, seems to us sufficient: nor can we agree with him, in his denial of the same bird's inhabiting the different regions mentioned; since so able an ornithologist as Latham, has denominated it the Southern Three-Toed Woodpecker, and it is notoriously an inhabitant of the North.



GREAT GREEN BRASILIAN BUTTERFLY.

GREAT GREEN BRASILIAN BUTTERFLY.

THIS very large and beautiful Butterfly was brought from Rio Janiero, in the Brasils.

The expansion of the wings is six inches and a half.

Except the central part of the markings on the wings, which are purple, the rest of this fine insect, body as well as wings, is of a rich sea-green colour.

For these reasons, not knowing any thing of it's peculiar qualities, we have denominated it the Great Green Brasilian Butterfly.

It has been figured by Mr. Drury, in his valuable Collection of Exotic Insects.

FAIR MONKEY.

London Published Jan.y 1. 1801. by Harrison, Cluse, & Co. No. 106. Newgate Street.

FAIR MONKEY.

THIS curious and beautiful little animal appears to be of a most scarce species, inhabiting the country near the River of the Amazons, in South America. It is, indeed, one of the many objects in natural history which, resting on a single authority, might have the reality of their existence suspected, if the veracity of the original describer were not to be relied on.

Monsieur De la Condamine, in his celebrated "Voyage sur la Rivière des Amazones," first notices this animal; and, from his description, all subsequent writers have formed their respective accounts.

It is the Simia Sagoinus Argentatus, of Linnæus; the Mico, of Buffon, and of Schreber; and the Fair Monkey, of Pennant. Brisson characterises it, "Cercopithecus ex Cinereo Albus Argenteus, Facie Auriculisque Rubris splendentibus, Cauda Castanei Coloris;"

loris;" or, "Cercopithecus of a Silvery-White Grey Colour, having a bright Red Face and Ears, and a Chesnut-coloured Tail."

We have adopted Pennant's name, from our aversion to disturbing established appellations: though, we confess, it does not appear to us by any means felicitously descriptive of the animal; and should, for our own parts, have rather preferred calling it, after Linnæus, the Silver, or Silvery, or Silver-Haired, Monkey. Fairness, has always seemed to us a very aukward epithet, when applied to the hair; being so generally appropriated to the hue of the skin, as scarcely to convey any other signification. Perhaps, in naming this animal, the peculiar redness of the face should have been recollected. This we merely hint, for the consideration of future nomenclators.

Buffon's account of this animal, though short, is considerably longer than any other. "We owe," says he, "our knowledge of this animal to M. De la Condamine; and, therefore, we shall transcribe the account which he has given of it—"The Monkey,

"of

"of which the Governor of Para made me a "present, is the only one of the kind that had "been seen in this country. The hair on "it's body was of a beautiful silvery-white "colour; and that on it's tail was a shining "chesnut, approaching to black. It's ears, "cheeks, and muzzle, were of so lively a "vermilion, that it had the appearance of "being the work of art. I kept it twelve "months; and, when almost in sight of the "French coast, it was still alive. But, not-"withstanding all my precautions to defend "it againſt the cold, it fell a victim to the "rigour of the season, before my arrival. I "have preserved it in brandy; which will be "sufficient to shew, that my description is not "exaggerated."

"From this narration," proceeds Buffon, "it is obvious, that Monsieur De la Conda-"mine's description will apply to no other ani-"mal than the Mico; and, that it is a distinct, "and probably a very rare, species. Though re-"markable for the beauty of it's hair, and "the lively red which adorns it's face, it was "never mentioned by any former author or tra-"veller."

The

The following are the distinctive characters of this species, as subjoined by Buffon—"The Mico has neither cheek-pouches, nor callosities on the buttocks. The tail is about one half longer than the head and body, and is not prehensile. The partition of the nostrils is thinner than that of the other Sagoins; but their apertures are placed at the sides. It's face and ears are naked, and of a vermilion colour. The muzzle is short. The eyes are distant from each other. The ears are large. The hair is of a beautiful silver-white colour; and that of the tail, a glossy brown, approaching to black. It walks on four feet, and the body exceeds not seven or eight inches in length. The Females are not subject to the menses."

To this, which is the whole of Buffon's account, may be added, that the claws on the thumbs, fingers, and toes, are all crooked, narrow, and pointed; but, that the great-toes have flat rounded nails.

YELLOW WREN.

London, Published Jan.y 1-1801, by Harrison Hunt & Co. No. 108, Newgate Street.

YELLOW WREN.

DWARDS, who originally figured the bird hich is represented in the annexed print, un- r the appellation of the Yellow Wren, in- rms us, that it was brought, by Dr. Browne, om the Island of Jamaica.

His description is as follows—" The bill, gs, and feet, are black. The top of the head, per part of the neck, back, rump, wings, d tail, are of a greenish-brown or dark-olive olour. The tips of the covert-feathers are ghter, and form two oblique marks across ch wing. The insides of the quills are ash- oloured. The inner coverts of the wings e of a bright yellow; as is the whole under de of the bird, from bill to tail. It has a usky line passing through the eye; above and elow which, it is yellow. Another dusky ne passes from the corner of the mouth, on e cheek."

He adds—" The Yellow Wren has, I ink, been figured and described by different uthors, under various names. See the Re- ulus non Cristatus, of Willughby; and the

Yellow

Yellow Titmouse of Catesby: he says, that they breed in Carolina, and disappear at the approach of winter. I have a coloured figure of it, from Holland or Germany, which is called "Wistling." I have also received, I think, the same bird, from Bengal in the East Indies. So that this species seems to me, to be spread over most parts of the known world; and is, perhaps, in all those parts, a bird of passage. I believe it to be, the Oenanthe Fusco Lutea Minor, of Sloane: see his History of Jamaica, and Ray's Synopsis. As Mr. Willughby has given it no English name, I have chosen to call it the Yellow Wren: contrary to Catesby, who ranges it with Titmice; though, I think, improperly, it's bill being long and slender, whereas it is shorter and less acute in Titmice."

This Yellow Wren appears to be the Motacilla-Trochilus, of Linnæus; the Motacilla Hispanica, of Hasselquist; the Asilus, of Gesner, Brisson, Ray, and Willughby; the Sylvia-Trochilus, of Latham; the Pouillot, or Chantre, of Buffon; and, perhaps, the Green Wren, of Albin.

Buffon

Buffon enumerates, also, the following ocal names—" The Greek Ο ιστρος," says he, " and the Latin Asilus, signify a Horse-Fly, or Gad-Bee: and, hence, were applied to this bird; probably, on account of it's diminutive size. In the Catalonian language, it is called Xiuxerra; in Polish, Krolic Nieczubaty; in the Boulonois, Reatin; in Provence, Fifi; in Burgundy, Fenerotet, or Fretillet; in Lorraine, Tuit, in Sologne, Frelot, Frelotte, Fouillot, Tout-Vive; in the Orleanois, Vetti-Vetto; Tolitolo; and, in Normandy, Pouillot, or Pouliot."

We shall transcribe Buffon's entire history of this bird—

" The three smallest of our European birds," says he, " are the Gold-Crested Wren, the Common Wren, and the Yellow Wren. The latter, though not larger than the rest, is rather longer. It has the shape, the size, and the figure, of a little Fig-Eater: for the Yellow Wren might be ranged in that genus, which is already so numerous, were it not much better to give each species it's proper name, which is well known, than to confound

it

it among generic appellations. It might be termed, the Little European Fig-Eater; and I wonder that some nomenclator has not thought of this classification. It's French name Pouillot, is evidently derived from the Latin Pullus, or Pusillus, signifying Small and Feeble.

"The Yellow Wren feeds on flies, and other small insects. It's bill is slender, and tapered: the outside of a shining brown; the inside, and the edges, yellow. The plumage consists of two faint tints of greenish grey, and yellowish white: the first spreads on the back, and the head. A yellowish line, rising from the corner of the bill, passes near the eye, and extends to the temple. The quills of the wings are of a dull grey; and, like those of the tail, have their outer edge fringed with greenish yellow. The throat is yellowish; and there is a spot of the same colour on each side of the breast, where the wing rests. The belly and the stomach are white; which is more or less dashed with a weak yellow, according to the age of the bird, or it's difference of sex. In general, the plumage of the Yellow Wren resembles that of the Gold-Crested

Wren;

Wren; which has only an additional white spot on the wing, and a yellow crest.

"The Yellow Wren resides in the woods during summer. It builds it's nest in the heart of the bushes, or in a tuft of thick herbage. The construction is as artful as it is concealed. The outside consists of moss, and the inside is lined with hair or wool. The whole is closely interwoven, and covered; and is shaped like a ball, in the same manner as that of the Gold-Crested Wren, of the Common Wren, and of the Long-Tailed Titmouse. It should seem, that the voice of Nature has directed these four very small birds to the structure of this nest; since their heat, if not guarded and concentrated, would be insufficient for incubation: and this is an additional proof that, in all animals, the faculty of propagating their species, perhaps, surpasses the instinct for self-preservation. The Female lays, commonly, four or five eggs; and, sometimes, six or seven; of a dirty white colour, dotted with reddish. The young ones remain in the nest, till they can fly with ease."

A note, from Salerne, is here quoted by Buffon,

fon, which convinces us that he is mistaken as to the number of eggs, this bird usually lays: it being probable that, like the Common Wren, whose nest, and even eggs, are very similar, it regularly lays at least eight or ten eggs.

"This little bird," Salerne says, "is much "attached to it's nest, which it will hardly "forsake. A friend of mine told me that, "one day, having found a nest of this bird, "he made her lay thirty eggs, one after another, "by removing one every day: after which, "he took pity on the tender dam, and suf-"fered her to hatch."

"In autumn," resumes Buffon, "the Yellow Wren leaves the woods, and sings in our gardens and vineyards. It seems to repeat the sounds—"Tuit! Tuit!" which is the name it receives in some provinces: as, in Lorraine, where subsists no trace of the appellation Chofti, bestowed in the time of Belon, and which, according to him, signified Singer, alluding to the variety and continuance of it's warble, which lasts during the whole spring and summer. The song has three or four variations, which are mostly modulated.

It

It begins with a slender, broken cluck; which is succeeded by a series of silvery detached sounds, like the clinking of telling crown-pieces: this is, probably, what Willughby and Albin compare to the stridulous voice of Grashoppers. After these two notes, very different from each other, the bird sings it's full song; which is soft, pleasant, and well supported: it lasts during all the spring and summer, but, in the month of August, it gives place to a slender whistle, "Tuit! Tuit!" which is nearly the same in the Red-Tail, and in the Nightingale.

"The Yellow Wren is extremely active. It incessantly flutters, briskly, from one branch to another. It darts from it's place to catch a Fly; it returns; and searches continually among the leaves, on both sides, for insects: which, in some provinces, has given occasion to the name of Frisker—Fretillet, Fenerotet. It has a small oscillation of the tail, upwards and downwards; but slow, and regular.

"These birds arrive in April, often before the leaves are unfolded: they form flocks of fifteen or twenty, during th ir passage; but on their arrival, immediately separate into

pairs.

pairs. Sometimes, shortly after their appearance, they are surprized by frosts, and drop dead in the roads.

"This delicate little species is, however, widely diffused. It even visits Sweden: where, Linnæus says, it inhabits the Willow plots. It is known in all the provinces of France. It is also found in Italy. It is probable, that the Small Green Wren, which Edwards tells us was brought from Bengal, is only a variety of the European Yellow Wren."

The Yellow Wren is called, in Tuscany, Lui; a name which, according to Olina, it pronounces in a plaintive voice, without having any other song. "This," Buffon remarks, "seems to shew that the Yellow Wren does not pass the summer in Italy; which is the more probable, as Olina afterwards mentions it's being seen in winter."

In the forest of Orleans, according to Salerne, it still preserves the name of Chofti; which, as Buffon states, it has lost in Lorraine. "This little bird," says Salerne, "varies infinitely it's song: it is one of the first to announce

nounce the return of spring; I have heard it sing more than three weeks before the Wild Nightingale. It is so feeble, that if we throw a clod against the branch on which it sits, it will be stunned by the shake, and tumble off."

Mr. White asserts, that there are three species of the Yellow or Willow Wren; which differ in size and in note. "The yellowest bird is," he says, "considerably the largest, and is distinguished by having it's quills tipped with white. It haunts the tops of trees; and makes a sibilous noise, like a Grashopper: at intervals, it rises; singing, and shivering it's wings."

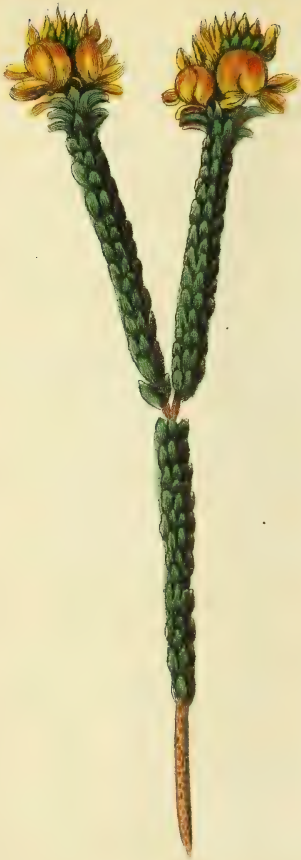
The fact seems to be, that this bird is much subject to variety, both in size and plumage: but, perhaps, the species are the same.

In the second volume of the Transactions of the Linnæan Society, Mr. Lamb has described what he denominates a new species of Warbler, called the Wood Wren; which, we conceive, is nothing more than a variety of the Yellow Wren. "It differs, however," as Mr. Lamb observes, "in being larger than the

the Motacilla Trochilus; and white on the under parts, which are yellow in the Trochilus." The length of this bird is stated, by Mr. Lamb, to be five inches and a half; but his figure, said to be the natural size, represents it as only four inches and three-quarters: that of Edwards, is exactly an inch less. The bills are of equal length; and Mr. Lamb's figure appears to be otherwise disproportionate.

Mr. Lamb considers it as an undoubtedly new species in England; and believes it to be a non-descript. He tells us, that he never heard these birds before the spring of 1797; and that, nevertheless, he had heard nine in the course of a month—four in Whitenight's Park, near Reading; and five, during his tour to the Isle of Wight. He adds, "Colonel Montague informed me, that he had met with it in Wiltshire, and had called it the Wood Wren: it has, also, been heard near Uxbridge."

Buffon mentions a Great Yellow Wren, found in Lorraine; which, he says, is not so small by a fourth part, as the former: this, probably, is a variety similar to that described by Mr. Lamb.



CORNUCOPIA FLOWER.

London Published Jan.31 1810 by Wm Wilson, Chase & Co. Wood, Newgate Street.

CORNUCOPIA FLOWER,

OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

AS we received the beautiful drawing of this Flower without the smallest information respecting it, we have bestowed on it the temporary appellation of the Cornucopia Flower; merely from it's striking our eye, in the state of it's bloom in which it is represented, as somewhat resembling the Cornucopia, or Horn of Plenty, of the poets and painters.

SPOTTED MARMOT.

London Pub.d Jan.y 1.st 1800 by Harrison Blue & Co.s Rev.s Newgate Street

SPOTTED MARMOT.

WE denominate this animal the Spotted Marmot, which obviously applies to the individual figure, because we are not entirely satisfied with any of the names under which it is included in the different arrangements of naturalists: except, perhaps, the Souslik, of Buffon.

It is a variety of the Mus Citillus, of Linnæus and of Pallas; the Souslik, of Buffon; and the Earless Marmot, or Casan Marmot, of Pennant. Buffon's Zisel is given as a synonime, by Pennant, and some more recent naturalists: this, we conceive, is done without any sufficient foundation, as he not only separates them, but never once mentions them together; unless, indeed, we agree with these naturalists, that they are all of the same species, though so very different in appearance.

Pennant also inserts, among his synonimes, the Tsitsjan, or Zits-jan, of Le Bruyn, from whose voyage to Muscovy he extracts, in a

note,

note, the original account, which we have thus translated—" A hound of mine caught, in the " plain, a little animal called Zits-jan, which " he brought me alive; and, presently after- " wards, another, which I disembowelled, in " order to preserve it. It is a species of Field " Rat, about the size of a Squirrel; having " a short tail, and fur like that of a young " Rabbit. It has not only the colour, but the " form, of this last animal, except that the " head is larger, and the two upper teeth are half " as long again as the lower. It has, also, the " fore-feet shorter than the hind-feet, each " having four toes, with one smaller rudiment; " and five toes on each hind-foot, somewhat " resembling those of a Monkey."

The above account sufficiently corresponds with Buffon's description of the Zemni; and, in some degree, with the Zisel: but, certainly, not with his Souslik, which appears to be our Spotted Marmot.

" In Casan," says Buffon, " and the provinces watered by the Wolga, as far as Austria, there is a small animal which, in the Russian

sian language, is called the Souslik. It furnishes a beautiful fur; and, in figure and shortness of tail, bears a great resemblance to the Short-Tailed Field Mouse. But it is distinguished from the Mouse or Rat kind; by it's fur; which is every where interspersed with small spots of a bright and shining white. These spots exceed not a line in diameter, and are placed at the distance of two or three lines from each other. They are more conspicuous, and better defined, on the loins, than on the shoulders and head. Mr. Pennant, a well known and very able naturalist, favoured me with one of these Sousliks; which had been transmitted to him, from Austria, as an animal unknown to the naturalists. I recognised it to be the same animal with that of which I had a skin in my possession; and of which M. Sanchez, formerly Physician to the Court of Russia, sent me the following notice—" Great " numbers of the Rats called Sousliks, are " taken in the barks loaded with salt in the " River Kama; which descend from Soli- " kamski, where there are salt-pits, and fall " into the Wolga, above the town of Casan, " at the confluence of the Teluschin. The

" Wolga

"Wolga, from Simbuski to Somtof, is covered "with these salt barks; and it is in the lands "adjacent to these rivers, as well as in the "barks, where the Sousliks are taken. They "have obtained the denomination of Souslik, "which signifies "Nice-tasted," because they "are extremely fond of salt."

The following additions to this account appear in Buffon's Supplement—" I now," says he, " give a figure of this animal, which is not in the original work. Prince Galitzin, at the desire of M. De Buffon, was so obliging as to send eight Sousliks, with the necessary precautions for preserving them alive till they should arrive in France. These eight animals reached Petersburgh, after a long journey from Siberia: but, notwithstanding all the attention paid to them, they died in passing from Petersburgh to France. The instructions from Siberia were, to feed them only with grain or hemp-seed; to give them as much air as possible; and to put in their cage a considerable quantity of sand, because they burrow in light soils in their natural state.

" These

"These animals generally dwell in the desarts; and dig holes in the declivities of mountains, provided the earth be blackish. Their holes are not of equal depths; and are seven or eight feet long: never straight, but winding; and having from two to five entries, the distances of which are unequal, being from two to seven feet asunder. In these holes they make different apartments; and amass in them, during the summer, their winter provisions. In the cultivated fields, they collect ears of corn, peas, linseed, and hemp-seed; and place them, separately, in different departments of their holes. In uncultivated lands, they collect the seeds of various herbs. During summer, they feed on grain, herbs, roots, and young Mice; for, when the Mice are large, the Souslik is unable to kill them. Besides their magazines of provisions, these animals dig separate holes, some feet distant from the former, in which they repose. They throw all their ordure out of their retreats. The Females bring forth from two to five young at a litter; which are blind, and naked, and begin not to see till after the hair appears. The time of gestation is not exactly known."

The

The above history and description from Buffon is the only unblended account of this animal which we possess; but it is remarkable, he takes no notice of that variety of this species which is said by other naturalists to be streaked with transverse undulations.

Dr. Gmelin, in his edition of the Systema Naturæ, includes under one description, the Souslik, or Arctomys Suslica; the Zisel, or Arctomys Citillus; and the Zemni, or Arctomys Zemni. This last is thought, by most naturalists, to be the Zits-jan, of Le Bruyn, rather than the Zizel.

We shall subjoin his description, as translated by Mr. Kerr; in which, we apprehend, it will be perceived that this justly celebrated naturalist has not been able to avoid confusing the characteristics of the different animals. The learned Doctor calls it Orientalischer Hamster, or the Oriental Hamster.

"It inhabits," says Dr. Gmelin, "the southern parts of Russia, as far as Kamtschatka; the islands between Asia and America; Persia;

Persia; and China; but is now rarely found in the rest of Europe. It dwells in open, high, dry and uncultivated places; preferring turfy and loamy soils, near the high roads; and never frequents either bogs or woods. Each individual has it's separate burrows; in which, for provision, in the beginning and end of winter, it lays up magazines of grain, tender vegetables, and berries: sometimes, though rarely, the carcases of Mice, and of small birds, are added. In the middle of winter, it lies torpid during the greatest severity of the frost. The burrows of the Females are dug deeper than those of the Males. From the very beginning of spring, as soon as the weather becomes mild, they go out in the day-time, in quest of food; which they eat sitting on their haunches, carrying it in their fore-paws to the mouth. The Male is very easily tamed; but the Female is fierce, more given to bite, and less easily made tame. She goes between three and four weeks with young; and brings forth, about the beginning of May, from three to eight young. The fur is very good in the spring, and the flesh is reckoned tolerable. They are preyed on by Polecats, Weasels,

Hawks,

Hawks, Carrion Crows, and Cranes. This animal varies considerably, both in size and colour: being, sometimes, as large as the Common Marmot; and, sometimes, not larger than the Water-Rat. In general, the colour is of a yellowish ash on the upper parts, and dirty white on the belly. Sometimes, it is variegated with waves or small spots of white. Some are white on the upper parts, and waved with tawny or yellow; being pale yellow on the lower parts of the body; and having a longish tail, with short hair, like that of a Squirrel. Others are of a grey colour on the upper parts of the body, spotted with white, the under parts being of a yellowish white: with white orbits; the face, between the eyes and nose, of a brownish yellow; and a short tail. Perhaps," adds Gmelin, "this animal is the Mus Persicus, of Aristotle and of Pliny."

COOT-FOOTED TRINGA.

London Pub.d Jan.y 8.th 1801 by Harrison, Cluse & Co. 18. Newgate Street.

COOT-FOOTED TRINGA.

OUR figure of this beautiful bird is taken from Edwards, and we have therefore preserved the name under which it was published by that ingenious ornithologist. It appears, however, to be a species of what more recent naturalists have, after Brisson, denominated Phalaropes: derived from Φαλαρρις, thought to be the Greek word for the Coot; and πους, the Foot.

Buffon, in describing the Phalaropes, says —" Edwards was the first who introduced this genus of small birds; which, with the bulk and almost the shape of the Sandpiper, have feet like those of the Coot. From this analogy, Brisson terms them Phalaropes; while Edwards, resting on their more obvious appearance, is contented with the name Tringa. They are, indeed, little Snipes, or Sandpipers, on which nature has bestowed the feet of the Coot. They seem to belong to the northern countries: those figured by Edwards came from

from Hudson's Bay, and we received some from Siberia. But, whether they migrate, or stray, they are sometimes seen in England; for Edwards mentions one which was killed, in winter, in Yorkshire. He describes four birds," concludes Buffon, " which may be reduced to three species."

These three species, according to Buffon, are—1. The Cinereous Phalarope, or Tringa Hyperborea, of Linnæus; 2. the Red Phalarope, or Tringa Fulicaria of Linnæus; and, 3. the Phalarope with Indented Festoons, or Tringa Lobata of Linnæus.

The first species, or Tringa Hyperborea of the Linnæan system, is our Coot-Footed Tringa of Edwards. It is the Phalaropus, of Brisson; the Tringa Fusca, of Gmelin; the Phalaropus Fuscus, of Latham; and the Brown Phalarope, of Pennant.

This bird, Buffon describes to be " eight inches long, from the bill to the tail; which last projects not beyond the wings. It's bill is slender, flattened horizontally, thirteen inches

inches long, and slightly swelled and bent near the point. It's feet are deeply fringed, like those of the Coot, with a membrane in festoons, the knots of which correspond also to the articulations of the toes. The upper surface of the head, neck, and body, is grey, waved gently on the back with brown and blackish. It has a white neck-piece, inclosed by an orange-rufous line; below it, the neck is encircled with grey; and all the under side of the body is white. Willughby says, he was informed that this bird has the shrill clamorous voice of the Sea-Swallows: but," concludes Buffon, " he did wrong to range it with these Swallows; especially, as he remarked it's analogy to the Coot."

The above, though given by Buffon, as the entire general description of this species; seems, in fact, confined to the Cock Coot-Footed Tringa, of Edwards, by whom it is more particularly described.

Edwards had originally described the Hen Coot-Footed Tringa: which, he observed, he had received from Hudson's Bay; and looked

on

on the feet to be very singular, no bird of the Snipe or Tringa kind, which he then knew, having any thing like them. He afterwards, however, met with other birds possessing this peculiarity; and, among the rest, the present subject, which he denominated the Cock Coot-Footed Tringa. It agrees, he tells us, with the former bird, "according to the general agreements seen between Cock and Hen. They both differ," continues Edwards, "from the Red Coot-Footed Tringa, in that their bills are not broader than deep; which breadth of bill is manifest in the latter, it being compressed like a Duck's bill.

"The bill of this bird is black, slender, and ending in a point. The upper mandible is longer than the nether, and a little bent downward. It has a blackish line passing from the nostril through the eye. The under side of the head and throat is white. From behind each eye, a line of orange-colour passes down on each side of the neck, and joins on the fore part of the middle of the neck between the white throat. The top of the head, hinder part of the neck above, all round the lower part

part of the neck, back, and covert-feathers of the wings, are of an ash-colour: the greater quills are black; the next to them, or middle quills, black with white tips; the remainder, next the back, are of a dusky brown. The first row of covert-feathers above the quills are dark ash-coloured, with white tips; the inner coverts of the wings are white, with dusky transverse lines; between the back and wing, a few of the long feathers are edged with orange-colour; and the rump is dusky and white, mixed, in transverse lines. The tail is dusky; the breast, belly, thighs, and covert-feathers under the tail, are white. The legs are bare of feathers above the knees. The legs, feet, and claws, are of a lead-colour: the toes are all scalloped with webs, just in the manner of the Red Coot-Footed Tringa."

Edwards adds, that this bird was brought from Hudson's Bay by Mr. Isham; "and," says he, "if it be not the Male of that before described, as I suppose it to be, it must be an older bird arrived at it's full perfection of plumage. This bird, I believe, has never been described. I find Mr. John Ray, in a small

Treatise

Treatise set forth by him, entitled "English Words, with a Catalogue of English Birds and Fishes, &c." where he speaks of the Coot, adds as follows—"Mr. Johnson of "Brigna, near Grota-Bridge, Yorkshire, "shewed me a bird of the Coot kind, scallop-"toed, and not much bigger than a Black-"bird." As Mr. Ray has said so little of his bird," concludes Edwards, "it cannot be determined, whether his had any agreement, or not, with what I have described."

SWEET PEA. FROM NEW SOUTH WALES.

London: Pub.d Jan.y 8.th 1801. by Harrison, Cluse & Co. N.o 108. Newgate Street.

SWEET-PEA,

FROM NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE drawing from which we have procured the annexed figure to be engraved and coloured, was brought from New South Wales; where, certainly, it was taken from nature: but, whether it was, like the Everlasting Pea before represented, a production of that climate, from English seed, or a genuine plant of the country, we can by no means ascertain; being without the smallest information on the subject. It obviously appears to resemble our common Sweet-Scented Pea, in leaf, in flower, and in fructification: and, it is by no means improbable, originated from seed accidentally mixed with grain, or pulse, taken out by our settlers for the cultivation of that establishment.

ELK.

MUCH confusion prevails in almost every account of this animal; which, however, is universally agreed to be the largest of the Deer genus. It is the Cervus Alces, of Linnæus; the Alce, of Gesner, of Aldrovandus, and of Johnston; the Elan, of Buffon; and the Elk, of Ray, Pennant, and most other naturalists. In fact, Elk is it's English name, apparently derived from the Celtic Elch; as Elan is it's French appellation, and Alce the name of the animal in modern Latin. In the Greek language, it is Αλκη; in German, Hellend, or Ellend; in Polish, Loss; in Swedish, Oelg; in Russian, Lozzi; and, in Norwegian, Ælg. The Chinese Han-ta-han; and the Canadian Orignal, which is the French name of the Moose-Deer; are, also, supposed to be only local varieties of the Elk.

Buffon has described the Elk and the Rein-Deer together; but, though they resemble each other in some particulars, we cannot perceive the smallest necessity for uniting their respective histories, which are in several respects essentially different. Nor, indeed, do we entirely

tirely approve of indiscriminately blending even the accounts of the European Elk, and the North-American Moose-Deer; though, evidently, the same animal, under the influence of different climates. With respect to the Chinese Han-ta-han, so little appears to be yet known, that it may seem of inferior importance. But, whatever might be our wish, respecting a due discrimination of these several varieties of the same probable species, we are under a sort of necessity, from the paucity of materials, to adopt too much of the very confusion against which we have entered our protest. The fact is, that the European Elk, though seemingly well known to the ancients, and supposed formerly to have existed in considerable plenty, is at present very rarely met with; except in Sweden, Norway, and some parts of Russia. In the woody tracts of Asiatic Russia, and particularly in Siberia, the Elk is said to be yet found of vast magnitude. The Moose-Deer, or American Elk, is most common in Canada, and the vicinity of what are called the Great Lakes.

"In Canada," says Buffon, "and in all the northern parts of America, we meet with the Elk,

Elk, under the name of the Orignal; and the Rein-Deer, under that of Caribou. Those naturalists who suspect that the Orignal is not the Elk, and the Caribou the Rein-Deer, have not compared nature with the relation of travellers. Though smaller, like all the other American quadrupeds, than those of the Old Continent, they are unquestionably the same animals." Dr. Goldsmith, on the contrary, remarks—" There is but very little difference between the European Elk, and the American Moose-Deer, as they are but varieties of the same animal. It may," says he, " be rather larger in America than with us; as, in the forests of that unpeopled country, it receives less disturbance than in our own." The Doctor describes the American Moose-Deer as of two kinds: " the Common Light-Grey Moose, which is not very large;" —meaning, no doubt, Buffon's Caribou—" and the Black Moose," —or Orignal—" which grows to an enormous height." Goldsmith, who was a much better poet than a naturalist, calls them both Orignals.

It must be confessed, however, that the doctor has, notwithstanding this mistake, avoided

avoided much of the incongruous absurdity of Buffon's history and description of the Elk: which, by some unaccountable error, the great French naturalist both figures and describes, "with horns having the appearance of being cut off abruptly, and furnished with broaches!" Yet, in a previous note, he had quoted the following accounts from two different travellers—

1. "The Elks, or Orignals, are frequent in the province of Canada, and very rare in the country of the Hurons; because these animals generally retire to the coldest regions. The Hurons call the Elks, Sondareinta; and the Caribous, Ausquoy: of which the Savages gave us a foot; which was hollow, and so light, that it is not difficult to believe what is said of this animal, that it walks on the snow without making a track. The Elk is taller than a Horse. It's hair is commonly grey, sometimes yellow, and as long as a man's finger. It's head is very long: and it has double horns, like the Stag; which are as broad as those of the Fallow-Deer, and three feet in length. It's foot is cloven, like that of the Stag, but much larger. It's flesh is tender and delicate. It pastures in the meadows; and,

and, likewise, eats the tender twigs of trees. Next to fish, it is the principal food of the Canadians."—2. "We find, in New England, great numbers of Orignals, or Elks. The Island of Cape Breton was famed for the chase of the Orignals, which were there very numerous, but have since been extirpated by the Savages. The Orignal of New France, is as strong as a Mule. It's head is nearly of the same shape. It's neck is longer, and it's whole body more meagre. It's limbs are long, and nervous. It's foot is cloven, and it's tail very short. Some of these animals are grey; others, reddish, or black: and, when old, their hair is hollow, as long as a man's finger, and makes excellent mattrases, and ornaments for saddles. The Elk has large, flat, palmated horns: some of them are a fathom long, and weigh from a hundred to a hundred and fifty pounds. They shed, like those of the Stag. The Orignal is a species of the Elks, very little different from those which we see in Muscovy. It is as large as a Mule: and of a similar figure; except in the muzzle, the tail, and the large flat horns—which, if we may credit the Savages, sometimes weigh three hundred, and even four hundred, pounds!"

In

In a singular work, called "An Account of Two Voyages to New England, &c. by John Josselyn, Gent." published at London in 1674, is the following marvellous account of the American Moose-Deer—"The Moose, or Elke, is a creature, or rather, if you will, a monster, of superfluity. A full-grown Moose is many times bigger than an English Oxe. Their horns, as I have said elsewhere, very big; (and brancht out into palms) the tips whereof are sometimes found to be two fathoms asunder (a fathom is six feet) from the tip of one finger to the tip of the other; that is, four cubits: and, in height, from the toe of the fore-feet, to the pitch of the shoulder, twelve foot. Both which have been taken, by some of my sceptique readers, to be monstrous lyes. If you consider the breadth that the beast carrieth, and the magnitude of the horns, you will be easily induced to contribute your belief: and, for their height, since I came into England, I have read Dr. Schroderus his Chymical Dispensatory, translated into English by Dr. Rowland, where he writes that "when he lived in Finland, under "Gustavus Horn, he saw an Elke that was "killed and presented to Gustavus his mother,

"seventeen

"seventeen spans high." Lo you now Sirs, of the gibing crue, if you have any skill in mensuration, tell me what difference there is between seventeen spans, and twelve foot?"

Dr. Goldsmith says—"That such an animal as Josselyn describes, has actually existed, we can make no manner of doubt; since there are horns common enough to be seen among us, twelve feet from one tip to the other." These horns, the doctor observes, are sometimes fortuitously dug up in many parts of Ireland; where he has himself seen them "ten feet nine inches from one tip to the other."

Those enormous fossil horns, found at a considerable depth in the bogs of Ireland, as well as in America, and other parts of the world, are in general much longer, and narrower in proportion, than those of the Elk; and are, also, furnished with brow-antlers, which those of the Elk are not known to possess. Modern naturalists, therefore, incline to an opinion, that they belonged to some species of animal now extinct. Buffon, who has so strangely mistaken the horns of the Elk, supposes that these magnitudinous productions

of

of nature belong to some animal of the Rein-Deer kind, but certainly not an Elk. The reflection, that such vast horns, by whatever beast borne, must have been annually shed, and reproduced, fills the mind with astonishment! and the sight of some specimen of them, probably, gave birth to the following verses of the Poet Waller—

"So we some antique hero's strength
Learn by his lance's weight and length;
As these vast beams express the beast,
Whose shady brows alive they drest.
Such game, while yet the world was new,
The mighty Nimrod did pursue.
What Huntsman, of our feeble race,
Or Dogs, dare such a monster chase;
Resembling, at each blow he strikes,
The charge of a whole row of pikes?
O fertile head! which, ev'ry year,
Could such a crop of wonder bear!
The teeming earth did never bring,
So soon, so hard, so huge, a thing:
Which, might it never have been cast,
(Each year's growth added to the last)
These lofty branches had supplied
The Earth's bold Son's prodigious pride!
Heav'n, with these engines, had been scal'd;
When mountains, heap'd on mountains, fail'd."

Pennant takes the European Elk, and the American

American Moose, to be the same animal: but he thinks Josselyn's account of the size of the latter, greatly exaggerated; and, that Charlevoix, Dierville, and Lescarbot, with greater appearance of probability, make it the size of a Horse, or Auvergne Mule. "The only thing certain is," says Pennant, "that the Elk is common to both continents; and, that the American, having larger forests to range in, and more luxuriant food, grows to a larger size than the European." But, perhaps, in the early ages, when Europe was also covered with forests, the Elk might be even larger than the Moose-Deer is at present found in America; agreeably to the general observation of Buffon, that all the quadrupeds of the New World are smaller than those of the Old.

The Elk has a majestic appearance; though less elegantly shaped than the Deer kind in general. It is full as large as a Horse: and the colour, though varying, is commonly of a dark greyish brown; much paler, and sometimes inclining to whiteness, on the belly, legs, and beneath the tail. It has a large head, with broad and palmated horns; a large and heavy upper

per lip, greatly overhanging the lower; large eyes and ears; very high shoulders; long legs; broad hoofs; and an exceedingly short tail. The hair, which is in general strong, coarse, and of an elastic nature, is longest on the neck and shoulders, where it forms a sort of bristly mane. It is also long beneath the throat: and Linnæus, in his specific character of the Elk, mentions a sort of caruncle, or pendent excrescence, under the throat, which is not apparent in some specimens of the animal. The Female has no horns.

Pennant, who unites, it must be remembered, the accounts of the Elk and Moose-Deer, thus describes their manners—" They live amid the forests, for the conveniency of brousing the boughs of trees: by reason of the great length of their legs, and the shortness of their neck, which prevent them from grazing with any sort of ease, they often feed on water-plants, which they can readily get at by wading; and, M. Sarrasin says, they are so fond of the Anagyris Fætida, or Stinking Bean Trefoil, as to dig for it with their feet, when covered with snow. They have a singular

gular gait: their pace is a high, shambling, trot; but they go with vast swiftness. In passing through thick woods, they carry their heads horizontally, to prevent their horns being entangled in the branches. In their common walk, they raise their fore-feet very high; that which I saw, stepped over a rail nearly a yard high with great ease. They are very inoffensive animals; except when wounded, or in the rutting-season, when they become very furious: and, at that time, they will swim from isle to isle, in pursuit of the Females. They strike with both horns and hoofs; and are hunted, in Canada, during winter, when they sink so deep in the snow as to become an easy prey. When first unharboured, they squat with their hind-parts, make water, and then go off in a most rapid trot. During their former attitude, the hunter usually directs his shot."

It is, probably, from this habit of squatting, that the Elk has been said to be naturally subject to the epilepsy: whence arose the ridiculous notion, that the animal, by scratching it's ear with it's hoof till the blood flowed, effected it's own cure; and the still more absurd one,

one, that a piece of the Elk's hoof, set in a ring worn by epileptic persons, or the hoof held in a patient's hand, or applied to the pulse, or put to the left ear, or suspended from the neck so as to touch the breast, and a variety of similar mummeries, would eradicate that cruel malady in the human species.

The flesh of the Elk is said to be light and nourishing; but the nose of the Moose-Deer, according to Pennant, is reckoned the greatest delicacy in all Canada: the tongues, which are excellent, are frequently brought to England, from Russia; and the skin makes excellent buff-leather, said to be capable of repelling a musket-bullet.

MALACCA GROSBEAK.

Published Nov.r 7.th 1800 by Harrison & Co. No. 8. Newgate Street.

MALACCA GROSBEAK.

THIS beautiful bird was first figured by Edwards, from whom it received the name which we have adopted. In the Linnæan List of Edwards's Birds, it is called Loxia Maja: but, in his own Catalogue of Latin names, Edwards sets it down as the Coccothraustes Malaccensis.

The account which Edwards gives of this bird is very short. He tells us, that a dried specimen, the property of the obliging and curious Taylor White, Esq. of Lincoln's Inn, lay before him while he worked on the plate: and, that those who brought it from India called it the Malacca Wren; "which name," adds he, "I chose to alter, the bird having nothing of the Wren in it but it's size."

His description is as follows—"The Malacca Grosbeak has the bill of a blue colour; thick, and strong, in proportion to the size of the bird. The head, and undersides of the wings,

wings, are of a light ash-colour. The back, wings, rump, and tail, are of a reddish or chesnut-colour. The breast, belly, and whole under side, are dusky or blackish; the coverts under the tail being a little lighter. The legs and feet are of a flesh-colour.

LITTLE YELLOW & BLACK CAROLINA BUTTERFLY.

Published Nov.r 7th 1801 by Harrison & Co. No. 18 Newgate Street.

LITTLE YELLOW AND BLACK CAROLINA BUTTERFLY.

THE small Butterfly represented in the annexed print was originally figured by Edwards, and is given of the natural size.

He informs us, that it is a native of South Carolina; and accompanies his figure with the following description, which we have only to transcribe—

" The Little Yellow and Black Butterfly has it's head, body, legs, &c. of a dusky colour. All the wings, on both sides, are yellow; bordered pretty deeply on their upper sides, with blackish, or dusky: each of the longer wings has a small spot of black. The wings beneath have a little red on their extreme borders; besides a small spot, of the same colour, on each of the shorter wings."

SUKOTYRO.

London Published Nov.r 14 - 1801 by Harrison & Co. No. 108. Newgate Street

SUKOTYRO.

THE very singular animal represented in ıe figure annexed, is said to be an inhabitant f the Island of Java.

It must not be expected, that we can ɔuch for the authenticity of it's existence; hich, however, is just as well supported, s that of several other rare objects in natural istory, which have been universally accepted y naturalists, in their various histories and escriptions.

The Sukotyro, indeed, cannot boast quite ɔ much honour. Since it is unnoticed by Buffon; and, of course, by Dr. Goldsmith, vho built chiefly on his foundation: nor has ven the ingenious and indefatigable Mr. Pen-ıant admitted it into his systematic History of Quadrupeds; though he could not possibly be ınacquainted with the work in which it was ıriginally mentioned, and even with the ıame of the animal.

The

The probability is, that these distinguished naturalists entertained doubts of it's reality: in which, if we do not ourselves entirely acquiesce, so as to reject the whole account as fabulous, we perceive sufficient uncertainty to justify in others the adoption of such an opinion.

Indeed, we are not, ourselves, after all, quite free from somewhat similar apprehensions.

Yet, there may have been an individual, if not a species, resembling in some degree the figure given: and, perhaps, the more minute researches of enlightened travellers will hereafter be found to confirm the report of it's existence.

Nieuhoff, by whom it was first figured, and even noticed, and on whose single authority it appears to stand, was a Dutch traveller, who went from Holland to the East Indies in or about the year 1563, and continued his travels in the oriental regions for a considerable number of years. On his return to his native country, he published his peregrinations,

under

under the title of a Voyage to India; illustrated by many figures of subjects in natural history, some of which partake largely in that rudeness and want of accuracy which prevailed at the period when he lived and in the country where he resided. No peculiar imputation of any wilful misrepresentation or want of veracity, in this early Dutch traveller, has ever, we believe, been alledged against him; and, therefore, it seems but candid to suppose, that this figure is as near what it pretends to represent, as others given in his work which happen to be better known.

Making such allowance, the Sukotyro may be considered as a genus of not very remote affinity to the Rhinoceros, and the Elephant; between which it has been placed in the Systema Naturæ of Linnæus and Gmelin, as in part translated by Mr. Kerr.

In the generical character of the Sukotyrus, or Sukotyro, it is described as having a horn on each side of the head close to the orbits: and the trivial name of the single species, is Sukotyrus Indicus, or the Javan Sukotyro; which

is

is specifically characterised, as having a short, narrow, upright mane, along the back, from the hinder part of the head to the rump.

The Sukotyro is introduced by Dr. Shaw, into his recent Zoological publication: but, like Mr. Kerr, and indeed every other naturalist by whom it is mentioned, he has merely figured and described it from Nieuhoff's Voyage to India, as introduced in the second volume of Churchill's Collection of Voyages and Travels, without attempting to throw any new light on the subject.

This figure, we also have copied; and, from want of certainty as to colour, have given it that which, from it's reputed nature, seems most probable. The description of Nieuhoff, which is in this respect silent, is to the following purport—

" The Sukotyro, as the Chinese call it, is a very odd-shaped beast, inhabiting the Island of Java. It is of the bigness of a large Ox, with a snout like that of a Hog having two long, rough ears; and a thick

bushy

bushy tail. The eyes are placed upright in the head, quite different from other beasts. On the sides of the head, next to the eyes, stand two long horns, or rather teeth, not quite so thick as the tusks of the Elephant. It feeds on herbage, and is but seldom taken."

Mr. Kerr adds, to the above account, which is all the description given by Nieuhoff, that —" By the figure, this animal is very thick and clumsy, with strong thick legs and feet; which last are each armed with four knobs, or half-hoofs, on their fore-parts. The nose is very broad, and truncated; the ears are very large, and slouching; the tail is covered with flowing hairs, and reaches lower than the middle of the hind-legs; and the skin, which is smooth, is entirely free from plaits like those on the One-Horned Rhinoceros."

Nothing could be less difficult, than to multiply conjectures respecting this animal: but they will, we apprehend, sufficiently suggest themselves to every intelligent reader.

For our own parts, we really possess no

decided

decided opinion on the subject; and are will ing to suspend our ideas, between credulit and credibility, with what we conceive to b a due equipoise, till such facts, or strong cir cumstances, may happen to arise, as shal more imperiously incline the balance.

In the mean time, we seriously think, tha our knowledge of Nature can suffer very littl additional loss, by the want of certainty as t this strange, singular, and at once curious an uncouth production; which, most assuredly we should by no means have been the firs to have adopted, had not orthodox naturalist previously admitted the Sukotyro into th pale of their Zoological systems.

It is not, we desire to be always understood with the smallest irreverence to systematica arrangement, that we at any time thus freel deliver our sentiments. We are satisfied, tha very great men, by undervaluing the use; and we need not fear to assert, the necessity, o system; have blundered so egregiously, i describing natural objects, that a child in sci ence, on perusing their most boasted investiga

tions

ns, can very frequently detect the evident ficiency of their information, and even cor- ct many of their gross errors.

What a character might have been formed, the union of Buffon's talents with those of nnæus!

GREAT GREEN MACCAW.

WHEN Edwards figured this fine large bird, he considered it as a non-descript. "I can find," says he, "no account of this bird; and believe, it has not till now been either figured or described."

This Maccaw, however, is thought to be the Largest Guiana Parrot, mentioned in Bancroft's account of Guiana. It is, certainly, the Psittacus Militaris, or Military Maccaw, of Linnæus; as well as of Latham, and other late ornithologists. Buffon, indeed, only mentions it as a variety of his Green Ara, and assigns it no particular name or description.

The account which Edwards gives of the Great Green Maccaw is as follows—

"This is a bird of the first magnitude among Parrots. The wing, when closed, was about thirteen inches long: the middle feather of the tail was fifteen inches. The head

head was large, in proportion to the bird. The bill was of a dusky colour, and pretty strong: the upper mandible pretty much hooked, having angles on each side. The tongue was dusky, round, and soft. The nostrils were small; and placed in a narrow whitish skin, which wholly surrounded the bill. On each side of the head was a pretty broad portion of skin, bare of feathers, of a flesh-colour; with several oblique lines under the eyes, composed of minute black feathers. The eyes are placed in these bare parts of the head: their irides are bright yellow, the pupil black. The forehead, adjoining to the bill, is covered with beautiful red feathers: a little dusky red is seen under the bill, mixing with the green feathers. The top of the head, the whole neck, breast, and feathers of the wings, are of a fine full green colour. The green coverts beneath the tail are a little mixed with red. The quills, and part of the row of feathers above them, are of a very fine sky-blue; except a few next the back, which gradually become green. The insides of the wings, and the under side of the tail, are of a dirty orange-colour. The middle of the back, the rump

and

ıd coverts on the tail, are of a fine blue. 'he middle feathers of the tail are very long; :adually shortening towards the side-feathers, hich are not above a third of the length of ıe middlemost: they are all pointed; and of fine red colour, with blue tips. Their num- er is twelve. The legs and feet are covered ith scales of a dusky flesh-colour; the claws e dusky. The feet are made as in all the arrot kind.

"This beautiful and rare bird was the pro- erty of the curious and obliging Philip Car- ret Webb, Esq. F. R. S. who kept it many ears alive at his house in Surry; and was leased to send it to me, when newly dead, yet retaining the colour of it's eyes, &c. om which I immediately made the etching on ıe copper-plate. Mr. Webb had not been ıformed of it's native place, nor could I by ny means discover it; but suppose it to be ımerican, because all the other Maccaws are f that country."

GREAT TIGER-MOTH.

London, Published Nov.r 14 - 1801, by Harrison & Co. Wood, Newgate Street.

GREAT TIGER-MOTH.

THE large and very handsome Moth represented in the annexed figure, called by aurelians, the Great Tiger-Moth, obviously derives it's name from the resemblance which the beautiful markings, on it's upper and under wings, bear to those on the skin of the Tiger.

Perhaps, were this fine Moth a foreigner, or even rarely met with, it would be far more highly prized; but, being a native of our own country, and found very frequently even in the vicinity of the metropolis, it's beauties are too familiar to our eyes to excite any extraordinary admiration.

The species, however, possesses the powerful attraction of variety; since, contrary to what is generally observed both in the Moth and Butterfly tribes, instead of an almost constantly exact uniformity in the various individuals of the same species and sex, there can hardly

hardly be found two alike among the most numerous collections of the Great Tiger-Moths.

The celebrated Mr. Moses Harris, affords us the following description of this beautiful Moth—

The Caterpillar of the Great Tiger is about two inches and a half long, when at it's full growth: it is black, but covered with long brown hairs. The food of these Caterpillars, which are at first exceedingly minute, is almost any thing which is vegetable. They are very often found in gardens; but, particularly, among nettles, on banks, any time in April or May: for this species are in the Caterpillar state during the winter.

The Caterpillar, when full fed, spins itself up in a white web, wherein it changes to a black Chrysalis.

In this situation it remains during one month; at the expiration of which time, it make

kes it's appearance in the Moth state, which ery rich and brilliant.

The superior wings are of a cream-colour, otted with large clouds of a dark chocolate e: and the inferior wings are of a beautiful arlet; ornamented with large spots of black, hich appear glossy, like a piece of indigo hen broken. The thorax is of a dark brown lour, resembling the spots on the superior ings; and the abdomen is a bright scarlet, ke the ground of the inferior wings, having veral dusky marks across the upper part.

The Female deposits her eggs, which are of fine green colour, in the most regular and xact order: they are, in number, more or ess; but, Mr. Harris assures us, that he once ounted upwards of eight hundred and forty, aid by a single Female.

He adds—" One remarkable circumstance s, that the Caterpillars, when produced from he Eggs, instead of looking out for other ood, devour the shells from which they emerged the moment before."

The

The Female is larger, by much, than the Male: and his antennæ are feathered, but those of the Female are plain.

FLOCKY MAUCAUCO.

London Published Nov.r 1.1801, by Harrison & Co. West Newgate Street.

FLOCKY MAUCAUCO.

AS this animal is the Lemur Laniger, or Flocky Maucauco, of the Linnæan system, some naturalists have confounded it with the Lemur Mongoz, or Woolly Maucauco, from which it materially differs.

Pennant, indeed, has not only erred in this particular; but goes the length to accuse Sonnerat of having given a figure "not by any means accurate:" for no better reason, as it seems to us, than because the latter's Maquis à Bourres fails to resemble the Woolly Maucauco, which is evidently a quite different species, though certainly of the same genus.

So far are we from thinking Sonnerat's Maucauco "not by any means accurate;" that we have exactly copied his figure in the annexed print, and are satisfied that it is a very correct representation of the animal intended.

The Maquis à Bourres, which is our Flocky Maucauco,

Maucauco, is described by Sonnerat to measure one foot nine inches from the tip of the nose to the insertion of the tail, and to have a tail nine inches long; making the entire length, from the tip of the nose, to the extremity of the tail, to be two feet and a half. It is, therefore, to be considered as one of the larger species of the Maucaucos.

This animal is said by Monsieur Sonnerat to be a native of Madagascar. It has only two fore-teeth in the upper-jaw, and four in the under. The ears are small; and the eyes, which are of a greenish-grey colour, are very large. All the feet have five toes each: and the thumbs of the hands or fore-feet, and great-toes of the hind-feet, have flat, rounded, nails; but all the fingers and toes, with these exceptions, are armed with long curvated claws.

The general colour of the Flocky Maucauco is, on the upper part of the body and limbs, a pale yellowish-ferruginous; on the under parts, white. The tail is entirely of a bright ferruginous colour. The loins are a deep reddish-tawny; the face is black.

The

The hair is very soft, curled, and crispy; whence obviously originates the specific name of this animal.

In the Count De Cepede's Additions to Buffon's History of Quadrupeds, two Maucaucos are described and figured, which Dr. Shaw considers as varieties of this species. These are, the "Petit Makis Gris," or Little Grey Maucauco; and what the Count De Cepede denominates, simply, "Autre Espece de Maki," or, Another Species of Maucauco.

The first of these, or the Little Grey Maucauco, the Count De Cepede says, is a pretty little animal, which was brought from Madagascar by Monsieur Sonnerat. The entire body, except the face, hands, and feet, is covered with a thick woolly fur, of a greyish colour, and very soft to the touch. The tail is very long, and covered with similar fur. This animal, in it's form and actions, as well as in the agility of its motions, seems greatly allied to the Maucaucos: but, it stands not so high on it's legs; though, in both, the fore-

legs

legs are shorter than the hind-legs. The coat of this small Maucauco has, as it were, the appearance of being marbled with a pale tawny colour: the fur being, at the roots, of a mouse-grey; and, at the extremity, a pale tawny. The fur on the upper part of the body is six lines in length, but that beneath is only four. The entire under part, from the lower jaw, is white; but, on the belly and under parts of the limbs, the white is a little mingled with a yellowish and greyish hue. The head is in front large, and the muzzle, very pointed; which gives an air of great sharpness to the visage. The forehead is straight; and the eyes are round and full. The ears, which are nine lines high, and seven broad, differ from those of other Maucaucos; which are large, and have the semblance of being flattened at the ends: those of this small species are large at the base; rounded; and edged, as well as covered, with ash-coloured hairs. Round the eyes, as well as the ears, the sides of the cheeks, and the fore-parts of the arms and legs, is of a clear ash-colour. The length of this animal, taken in a straight line, is ten inches and three lines; but,

but, when measured according to the curvature of the body, it is a foot and two lines. The length of the head, from the tip of the nose to the hinder part, is two inches and five lines. The tail, which is fifteen inches long, and of one uniform thickness, is of the same colour as the body: the tip, however, is rather deeper than the rest, and the fur on this part is seven lines in length. The interior toe is furnished with a sharp crooked claw; the other toes have nails.

This last peculiarity, in our apprehension, almost amounts to a specific difference between the Little Grey Maucauco, and the Flocky Maucauco.

The other species of Maucauco, likewise supposed by some naturalists to be only a variety of the Flocky Maucauco, is described by the Count De Cepede, as having fur which resembles that of the preceding animal, but more thick, woolly, crisp, and seemingly tufted, so as to make the animal have a thicker proportionate appearance. The head is large, and the muzzle not so long in proportion as in the

the Vari, the Mongoz, and the Maucauco. The eyes are very large, and the eyelids are bordered with blackish. The forehead is large; and the ears, which are short, are concealed in the fur. The fore-legs are short, in comparison with the hind-legs. The tip of the nose is covered by a large black patch; which runs up into a point on the nose, and covers part of the upper jaw. The length of this animal, from the tip of the nose to the beginning of the tail, is eleven inches and six lines: and the tail, which is of a uniform thickness, is ten inches and ten lines. The general colour of the fur of this animal is brown, and ash-tawny, in different shades; the hair being brown, tipped with tawny-ash. The under parts are a dirty white, tipped with tawny grey. The brown colour predominates on the head, the back, and upper parts of the limbs; and the ash-tawny, on the sides of the body, and limbs: the tawny is deepest round the ears. All that part of the back which is nearest the tail, has a tawny tinge; and this becomes an orange red throughout the entire length of the tail. The hands and feet are covered with ash-tawny hairs; but the fingers, and

and toes, and even the nails, are black. The great-toes of the hind-feet, are large, and have thin round nails; and the second toes are each connected to the great-toes by a blackish membrane.

Such are the animals which some naturalists consider as varieties only of the Flocky Maucauco. Every nice observer, however, cannot fail to perceive very sensible differences; but it is not, perhaps, quite so easy to decide, whether they are sufficient to constitute distinct species, respecting which there will probably continue to be various opinions.

BLACK AND YELLOW ORIOLE.

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BLACK AND YELLOW ORIOLE.

THOUGH we have copied Edwards's figure f this bird, we have thought it necessary to epart from our usual practice of also adopting is name: since it seems to us evident, that ie appellation, which he gives it, of the lack and Yellow Daw, is less scientific than ight have been expected from our favourite rnithologist; the bird being clearly an Oriole, nd not a Daw. It is, in fact, the Oriolus ersicus, of the Linnæan system; the Cassicus uteus, of Brisson; the Yapou, or Yellow lassique of Brasil, of Buffon; and the Black nd Yellow Oriole, of Latham.

But, notwithstanding we have, for good asons, as we conceive, rejected Edwards's ame of this bird, we think it right to extract is entire description.

"The natural size," says he, "of the lack and Yellow Daw of Brasil, is much bout that of the Jackdaw. It's wing, when losed, is six inches and a quarter long. The bill

bill is straight; though bending a very littl downward at it's point, which is pretty sharp it is of a smooth surface, and yellow colour This bird's plumage is black, with a little pur plish gloss; except a spot of fine yellow on th covert-feathers of each wing. The lowe half of the back, the covert-feathers bot above and beneath the tail, and the bottoms c the tail-feathers, are also of a fine golden yel low. The wings, within-side, are black; ex cept a little white on the edges of the inne webs of the quills at their bottoms. The ta has twelve feathers. Both the black and yel low parts of the bird have their downy fea thers at the bottoms very white. It has prett strong legs and claws, covered with blac scales. The outer and middle toes adhere little at their bottoms. Marcgrave says, i has sapphire-coloured eyes.

"This bird is the Jupujuba, or Japu, of th Brasilians. See Marcgrave's description, i Willughby. It builds a suspended nest Marcgrave saw, in one tree, near an engine house, more than four hundred of their nest suspended on the ends of the branches

Thoug

Though Marcgrave's descriptions are better than others of his time, his figures are so small, and ill-drawn, that they give no tolerable idea of the subjects he means to express. I owe this improved draught to the Honourable Capt. Washington Shirley, now Earl of Ferrers; who took, in a French prize homeward bound from South-America, one of the largest parcels of rare and beautiful birds of that country that I ever saw; all of them most cleanly and curiously preserved, and stuffed with cotton; and said to be designed as a present to Madame Pompadour. I am sorry any beautiful lady should be disappointed in so reasonable an amusement, though I was overjoyed to see the prize safe in London, which served almost to create this last publication of my works; in the course of which, I shall have frequent occasion to mention the name of the Right Honourable the Earl of Ferrers, whose fortune in meeting with the above prize proved equally lucky to me.

" Mr. Brisson, in his New Ornithology, has given a good figure of this bird, as large as life; which he calls, Cassique Jaune. He says,

says, it is found in Brasil; and in Cayenne, a French settlement to the north of the mouth of the River of Amazons. My plate was engraved and finished before Brisson's Ornithology was published, otherwise I should not have engraved it."

This is precisely the account given by Edwards: to which we shall add what Buffon has collected and remarked on the subject.

"When we compare," says he, "the Cassiques, with the Troupiales, the Carouges, and the Baltimores, all which have many common properties, we perceive that they are larger, that their bill is stronger, and that their legs are proportionably shorter; not to mention the differences in the general appearance, which it would be difficult to describe. Several authors have given figures and descriptions of the Yellow Cassique, under different names, and scarcely two of these exactly correspond.

"The principal colours of the Yapou are constantly black and yellow: but the distribution is not uniformly the same, and varies in different

ifferent individuals. The one, for instance, vhich we have caused to be designed, is entirely black: except the bill, and the iris, and ne great coverts of the wings nearest the ody, which are yellow; and, also, the hindart of the body, both above and below, from ne thighs inclusively as far as the middle of ne tail, and even beyond it. In another, vhich was brought from Cayenne, and lodged n the Royal Cabinet, and which is larger than ne preceding, there is less yellow on the vings, and none at all on the lower part of ne thigh, and the legs appear proportionably tronger: it is, probably, a Male. In the Black and White Pye of Edwards,"—[Buffon neans, the Black and Yellow Daw]—"which s evidently the same bird with our's, there is, n four or five of the yellow coverts of the vings, a black spot near their extremity; and, esides this, the black has purple reflexions, nd the bird is rather larger. In the Yapou, r Jupujuba, of Marcgrave, the tail is mottled vith black and white only below; for it's pper surface is entirely black, except the outnost feathers on each side, which are yellow alf it's length. It follows, therefore, that the

the colours of the plumage are by no mean fixed and invariable in this species."

Buffon thinks the Persian Magpye of Aldro vandus a different species from this bird: bu he considers Brisson's Red Cassique as only variety of our Black and Yellow Oriole.

BANKSIA SHRUB.

London, Published Nov.1st 1801 by Harrison & Co. No 16 Nargate Street.

BANKSIA SHRUB.

THE figure annexed is from an original drawing made in New South Wales, of the size of nature; which was about double the magnitude here represented.

It was unaccompanied by any memorandum whatever: but is evidently a species of the celebrated Banksia genus of plants.

We have simply denominated it Banksia Shrub; though, certainly, it will demand a more specific name from the professed botanist, when it comes to be better known.

The plant, we believe, has not yet found it's way to Europe. We are informed, however, by a gentleman who has seen it growing in it's native clime, that it is a thick, bushy shrub, about four feet in height: and, that the fruit represented is merely a ligneous covering to the winged seed of the plant; from whence it bursts forth, when it reaches maturity, and is, as it were, self-disseminated.

ERMINE.

ERMINE.

THIS animal is the Mustela Erminea, of the Linnæan system; the Mustela Alba, of Gesner; he Mustela Candida, or Animal Ermineum Recentiorum, of Ray; the Mustela Armellina, of Klein; l'Hermine, or Roselet, of Buffon; and the Ermine, or Stoat, of Pennant, and of most other English naturalists. These last appellations, indeed, as adopted by Buffon and Pennant, &c. are merely the names of the animal in the French and English languages. In Latin, it is called Hermellanus, or Animal Ermineum; in Italian, Armelina; in German, Hermelin; in Swedish, Hermelin Lekatt; and, in Polish, Gronostay.

As the animal, which we have figured from a drawing by the celebrated Edwards now in the British Museum, represents the Ermine or Stoat in it's white state, we have adopted the former name only: and, indeed, we have some little doubt, as to the strict propriety of making the Ermine and Stoat exactly one and the same animal, notwithstanding the respectable authorities

rities by which such an opinion is supported. They are, in fact, distinguished as varieties of the Mustela Erminea, by Dr. Gmelin, in his edition of the Systema Naturæ: the Stoat being the Mustela Erminea Æstiva; and the Ermine, the Mustela Erminea Hyberna. It is, however, very generally agreed, by naturalists, that the difference seems chiefly to depend on climate, and the season of the year; the Stoat, of a pale tawny brown or reddish yellow colour in summer, becoming the white Ermine of winter, in cold countries.

The history and description of this animal, as given by Buffon, is as follows—

"The Weasel with a Black Tail," says he—meaning with the end of the tail black—"is called the Ermine, and the Roselet, by the French: the Ermine, when it is white; and the Roselet, when it is red or yellowish. Though less frequent than the Common Weasel, these animals are still found in considerable numbers: especially in the ancient forests; and, sometimes, during winter, in fields bordering on woods. It is easy, at all seasons, to distin-

guish

guish them from the Common Weasel; for the end of their tail is always of a deep black, and the borders of the ears and toes are white. We have little to add," says Buffon, "to what we formerly remarked concerning the Weasel. We shall only observe, that it changes colour, as usual, in winter. I had one sent me, in the beginning of March 1757, which was then white. I kept it till April 1758; when it would, probably, have become white, had it been at liberty: but it was confined in an iron cage, against the bars of which it perpetually rubbed; and, as it had not been sufficiently exposed to the cold, it still preserved it's summer coat. It remained as savage as ever, and had lost nothing of it's bad smell. In every other circumstance, it was a healthy, vivacious animal: having lively eyes; a fine countenance; and movements so rapid, that it was impossible to follow them with the eye. It was always fed with eggs and flesh; but touched not meat till it had become putrid. It never inclined to eat honey; and, being deprived of victuals for three days, it died, after having taken a small quantity of honey.

"The

"The skin of this animal is very precious. The furs of the Ermine are finer, and fairer, than those of the White Rabbit; but they soon turn yellowish: and, indeed, the Ermines of our climate have always a slight tincture of yellow.

"This animal is very frequent in the north; especially, in Russia, Norway, and Lapland: where, as in every other place, they are reddish in summer, and white in winter. They feed on small animals; and, particularly, on a species of Rat which abounds in Norway and Lapland. The Ermines are rare in temperate climates, and are never found in warm countries. The Cape animal, called the Ermine by Kolben, and the flesh of which, he remarks, is wholesome, and agreeable to the palate, has no affinity to the Ermine. The Weasels of Cayenne, described by M. Barrere; and the Grey Ermines of Tartary and of the northern parts of China, mentioned by some travellers; are, also, animals different from our Weasels and Ermines.

"In the Natural History of Norway, by Pontoppidan,"

ontoppidan," adds Buffon, "we have the following remarks—"In Norway, the Ermine lives among the fragments of rocks. This animal seems to belong to the Weasel tribe. It's skin is white; except the tail, which is spotted with black. The furs of Norway and Lapland preserve their whiteness better than those of Russia, which sooner turn yellowish; and, for this reason, the former are of greater request, even at Petersburgh. The Ermine catches Mice, like the Cat; and, when practicable, carries off it's prey. It is particularly fond of eggs; and, when the sea is calm, swims over to the islands which lie near the coast of Norway, where there are vast quantities of sea-fowls. It is alledged that, when the Female brings forth on an island, she conducts her young to the continent on a piece of wood, piloting them with her snout. This animal, though small, kills those of a much larger size; as the Rein-Deer, and the Bear. It jumps into one of their ears, when they are asleep; and adheres so fast by it's teeth, that the creatures cannot disengage it. It likewise surprises Eagles and Heathcocks; by fixing on them,

"and

"and never quitting them, even when they
"mount in the air, till the loss of blood makes
"them fall down."

This is the whole of Buffon's account; some parts of which appear to us extremely doubtful.

Pennant gives a concise history and description of the British Stoat; but, as it seems to us, with too little knowledge of the more northern animal, which we incline to consider as alone the true Ermine. He tells us, that the upper part of the body is a pale tawny brown; the edges of the ears, and ends of the toes, are of a yellowish white; the throat, breast, and belly, are white; and the end of the tail is black—that the length, from nose to tail, is ten inches; of the tail, five and a half—that, in the north of Europe and Asia, and in the Highlands of Scotland, it becomes entirely white at the approach of winter, the end of the tail excepted; and resumes its brown colour in the spring—that it is sometimes found white, and sometimes mottled brown and white, in England—that, in February

ruary 1780, he saw, in his grounds, two toats in the state of most perfect and beautiful Ermines—that, in the mountains of southern Asia, and in Persia, it retains it's brown colour he whole year—that it inhabits, in great abundance, the north of Europe and of Asia, Kamtschatka and the Kurile Islands, and is met with in Newfoundland and Canada—that he skins form a great article of commerce, in Norway and Siberia; being found, in the last place, in plenty, in the Birch forests, but not n those of Fir or Pine—that the skins are old on the spot for from two to three pounds sterling a hundred—that the animals are either aken in traps, or shot with blunt arrows—nd, that it's manners and food are the same with those of the Common Weasel: but it does not frequent houses; it's haunts being woods and hedges, especially such as border on some brook.

Whatever may be the opinion of the writers of natural history, respecting the identity of our well-known animal the Stoat, and the northern Ermine; it would, we apprehend, e extremely difficult to persuade any furrier that

that there was no other difference in the clothing of the skins than merely the change of colour. The length, and thickness of the fur we presume, are widely different: and, though our Stoat may possibly be sometimes blanched in seasons of remarkable rigour, we do not believe that it attains to perfection in these requisite qualities; nor, indeed, are we by any means satisfied, that the genuine Ermine of northern countries constantly becomes reddish in summer, as appears to us too vaguely advanced by Buffon.

Perhaps, if Pennant had obtained more than a transient view of the two animals he mentions, they might have turned out to be manifestly only White Weasels, which are not very uncommon, instead of "White Stoats in the state of most perfect and beautiful Ermines!"

GARRULOUS ROLLER.

London, Published Nov.r 28. 1801. by Harrison & Co. No. 108. Newgate Street.

GARRULOUS ROLLER.

THIS bird is the Coracias Garrula, of Linnæus; the European or Garrulous Roller, of Buffon; the Galgulus, of Brisson; the Coracias Cœrulea, of Gerini; the Garrulus Cœruleus, of Frisch; and the Roller, of Edwards.

Buffon says—" Gesner was told, that the German name, Roller, was expressive of it's cry; Schwenckfeld says the same of Rache: one of them must be mistaken, and I am inclined to think it is Gesner; for the name Rache, adopted by Schwenckfeld, is more analogous with those given to this bird in different countries, and which are probably derived from it's cry. In German, it is called Galgen-Kegel, Halk-Regel, Gals-Kregel, and Racher; in Polish, Kraska; and, in Swedish, Spansk-Kraska. It has, also, the following names, in Germany: Heiden-Elster, or the Heath-Magpye; Kugel-Elster, or the Ball-Magpye; Mandel-Krae, or the Almond-Crow; Deutscher-Papajey, or the German Popinjay; and Birk-Heher, or the Birch-Jay. The names of

of Strasburgh Jay, Sea Magpye, Birch Mag-
pye, and German Parrot, which this bird ha
received in different countries, have been ap-
plied at random, from popular and superficia
analogies."

As our figure is that of Edwards, we shal
subjoin his description—" This bird," say
he, " is of the bigness of a Magpye; bu
longer-winged and shorter-legged and tailed
in proportion. The bill is long; prett
straight; a little hooked at the point; blac
of colour; and beset, on each side, at it's base
with black stiff hairs. The eye is encom
passed, for a small space, with a brown ski
bare of feathers: it has, also, a small knob, o
excrescence, a little behind each eye, void o
feathers. The whole head, neck, breast
belly, thighs, and coverts beneath the tail, ar
of a light blueish green; though somewha
darker on the crown of the head, and uppe
part of the neck, than on the under side. Th
neck, before, has light or whitish dashes dow
the shafts of the feathers. The back is of
reddish brown, with a small mixture of gree
on the edges of the feathers. The quills o
th

the wings are black at their tips, and of a very fine blue towards their roots; except those next the back on each side, which are of the colour of the back. The first and second row of wing-coverts, next above the quills, are of a greenish blue colour; the lesser coverts of the wings are of a fine deep blue; and the inner covert-feathers of the wings are of the colour of those on the outside, but something paler. The rump, and covert-feathers of the tail, are of the same fine blue or ultramarine colour that is seen on the wings. The middle feathers of the tail are of a dirty green; the outer, on each side, are of a light blue: the outermost of all are each of them extended about half an inch longer than the rest, and have their tips black. Wherever the tail, or the quills of the wings, are black on their upper sides, they are of a fine deep blue beneath. It has short legs, in proportion, of a yellowish colour; it's toes stand after the usual manner, cloven to their bottoms; and the claws are dark brown, or black. The bird," adds Edwards, "from which my design was taken, I suppose, from it's beauty, to be a Cock. It was shot on the rocks of Gibraltar; and sent

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to Mr. Catesby, in London, who obliged me with the use of it. The Latin names given to it by natural historians, are Garrulus Argentoratensis, and Cornix Cœrulea."

Buffon tells us, the Roller is so rare at Strasburgh, that scarcely three or four stragglers are seen in the course of twenty years; one of which having been sent to Gesner, he denominated it the Strasburgh Jay!—that it is a bird of passage, and performs it's migrations regularly once a year, in the months of May and September, yet is not so common as the Magpye or Jay—that it is found in Sweden, and in Africa; but must not be supposed settled in the intermediate regions, and is unknown in many parts of Germany, France, Switzerland, &c.—that it may be traced through Saxony, Franconia, Suabia, Bavaria, Tirol, Italy, and Sicily; and, lastly, in the Island of Malta, which is a sort of general rendezvous for all the birds which cross the Mediterranean.

"The Roller," says Buffon, "is more wi than the Jay or Magpye: it settles in th thickest and the most solitary woods; nor,

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far as I know, has it ever been tamed, or taught to speak. It's plumage is beautiful: it has an assemblage of the finest shades of blue and green, mixed with white, and heightened by the contrast of dusky colours. But a good figure is superior to any description. The young do not assume the delicate azure till the second year; whereas the Jays are decorated with their most beautiful feathers before they leave the nest.

"The Rollers build, when it is in their power, on Birches; and it is only when they cannot find these, that they lodge in other trees. But, in countries where wood is scarce, as in the island of Malta and in Africa, they form their nest, as it is said, on the ground. If this be a fact, it will follow, that the instincts of animals can be modified by situation, climate, &c."

According to Buffon, these birds associate with the Woodpeckers and Crows, in the tilled grounds near forests, where they pick up small seeds, roots, and worms; and that they also feed on wild berries, Grasshoppers, and even Frogs: but he does not agree with Schwenckfeld, that they devour carrion.

"Aldrovandus,"

"Aldrovandus," concludes Buffon, "who seems to have been well acquainted with these birds, and who lived in a country which they inhabit, asserts that the Female differs much from the Male: it's bill being thicker; and it's head, neck, breast, and belly, of a chesnut-colour bordering on ash-grey, while the corresponding parts of the Male are the colour of the beryl, with different reflexions of a duller green. I suspect, that the two long outside quills of the tail, and the warts behind the eyes, which appear only in some individuals, are the attributes of the Male; as the spur in the gallinaceous tribe, the long tail in the Peacock, &c."

This bird is seldom or ever seen in Great Britain. The eggs, which are about the size of a Pigeon's, are of a pale green colour, with numerous dull spots.

CHINESE LANTHORN-FLY.

London, Published Nov.r 28-1801, by Harrison, & Co. Wind. Newgate Stract.

CHINESE LANTHORN-FLY.

THE beautiful figure annexed, is an exact copy from nature of the Chinese Lanthorn-Fly, drawn by the celebrated Edwards. It appears to be the Chinese Lanternaria, of Linnæus; though, in the Linnæan List of Edwards's figures, it is omitted to be named by the great Swedish naturalist.

Edwards simply informs us, that he takes it to be a kind of Fire-Fly, the part on it's head being the lanthorn—that the wings are all flat; and the upper ones hard and smooth, like those of the Beetle or Scarabæus kind, of which he considers it as a species—that the body, and lower wings, are orange-coloured; except the tips of the wings, which have a broad border of black—that the upper wings are green; variegated with spotted and yellow, the yellow spots and marks having smaller spots within them of an orange-colour—that the under side is coloured and spotted in the same manner as the upper, but not so bright—

and,

and, that the Fly was brought from China by Captain Isaac Worth.

As the structure of the Lanthorn-Fly's trunk resembles that of the Cicada, some naturalists have thought it a species of the latter insect; but, according to Reaumur, from it's incapacity to emit that shrill noise for which the Cicada is so remarkable, it belongs to that species of insects which he denominates the Procigale, or Procicada.

GREAT ANT-EATER.

London Published Dec.r 5.1800 by Harrison & Co. No.106 Newgate Street.

GREAT ANT-EATER.

THE Ant-Eaters, which form a distinct genus f quadrupeds, in the Linnæan system, under ıe name of Myrmecophaga, are characterised ; having no teeth; the tongue round and ex- ensile; the mouth narrowed into a snout; and ıe body covered with hair. Of these animals, ıost modern naturalists admit that there are even species. Buffon contends, that they ıould be considered as only three: the Ta- ıanoir, or Great Ant-Eater; the Tamandua, r Middle Ant-Eater; and the Fourmiller, or ittle Ant-Eater. The Great Ant-Eater, figured ı the print annexed, is Buffon's Tamanoir, or reat Ant-Eater; the Myrmecophaga Jubata, f Linnæus; the Great Ant-Bear, of Ray; the ismire-Eater, of Nieuhoff; the Tamandua- uacu, of Marcgrave, and of Piso; and the reat Ant-Eater, of English naturalists. Pen- ant observes, that the specimen in the Leve- ian Museum, which our figure represents, is uperior in size to any of which he had ever efore heard. The entire length, he says, is even feet four inches: and he also particu-

larizes

larises the following dimensions—the tail, tw feet nine inches; from the tip of the nose, t the ears, a foot; the height, to the top of th shoulders, two feet; hairs of the tail, one foo two inches long; of the mane, a foot. A ski of this animal, now in the British Museum, thought to be nearly of equal size.

Pennant's general description is as follows— "The Great Ant-Eater has a long slende nose; small black eyes; a slender tongue, tw feet and a half long, which lies double in th mouth; slender legs; four toes on the fore-fee and five on the hind; the two middle claws o the fore-feet very large, strong, and hooked the hair on the upper part of the body half foot long, of a black colour mixed with grey from the neck, cross the shoulders, to the side is a black line, bounded above with white; th fore-legs are whitish, marked above the fe with a black spot; the tail is cloathed with ver coarse black hairs, a foot long; the length from nose to tail, is about three feet two inches that of the tail, two and a half; and the weig of the whole about a hundred pounds.

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"It inhabits Brasil and Guiana; runs slowly; nd swims over the great rivers, at which time flings it's tail over it's back. It lives on ants; and, as soon as it discovers their nests, verturns them, or digs them up with it's feet: then thrusts it's long tongue into their reeats; and, penetrating all the passages of the est, withdraws it into it's mouth, loaded with rey. It is fearful of rain; and protects itself gainst wet, by covering it's body with it's ong tail. This, as well as every species of his genus, brings but one young at a time; at his season it is dangerous to approach the lace; it does not arrive at it's full growth nder four years. The flesh has a strong, disgreeable taste, but it is eaten by the Indians. Notwithstanding this animal wants teeth, it is fierce and dangerous; nothing that gets within t's fore-feet can disengage itself. The very Panthers of America are often unequal in the combat; for, if the Ant-Eater once has an opportunity of embracing them, it fixes it's alons in their sides, they both fall together, and both perish: such being the obstinacy and stupidity of this animal, that it will not extri-

cate

cate itself even from a dead adversary. It sleeps in the day, and preys by night."

He adds—"The following history of this animal is given in Dillon's Travels through Spain, in his account of the Royal Cabinet of Natural History at Madrid. "The Great "Ant-Bear from Buenos Ayres, the Myrme-"cophaga Jubata of Linnæus, called by the "Spaniards Osa Palmera, was alive at Madrid "in 1776, and is now stuffed and preserved in "this cabinet. The people who brought it "from Buenos Ayres, say that it differs from "what they there call the Ant-Eater; which "only feeds on Emmets, and other insects: "whereas this would eat flesh, when cut in "small pieces, to the amount of four or five "pounds. From the snout, to the extremity "of the tail, this animal is two yards in "length; and it's height is about two feet. "The head is very narrow; the nose long "and slender. The tongue is so singular, "that it looks more like a worm, and extends "above sixteen inches. The body is covered "with long hair, of a dark brown colour, with

"white

' white stripes on the shoulders; and, when it ' sleeps, it covers it's body with it's tail."

Such is the history of this quadruped, as ex-racted from Pennant; to which it will not be mproper to add some particulars from Buffon.

" This Ant-Eater," Buffon tells us, " is alled by the Brasilians Tamandua-Guacu, or he Great Tamandua; to which the French nhabitants of America have given the name of 'amanoir. The hair on the tail is disposed in he form of a plume; which the animal, when wants to sleep, or defend itself from rains or he heat of the sun, turns on it's back, and covers the whole body. The long hairs of he tail and body are not round through their ntire extent, but flat at the extremities; and hey feel dry to the touch, like withered herbs. When irritated, the animal gives a brisk agi-ation to it's tail; but, while walking at it's ase, allows it to trail, and sweep the ground ver which it passes. It runs so slowly, that man can easily overtake it. At a distance, he Great Ant-Eater has the appearance of a 'ox; and, for this reason, some travellers have

given

given it the name of the American Fox. It has strength enough to defend itself against a large Dog, or even the Jaguar or Brasilian Cat. When attacked, it at first fights on end; and, like the Bear, annoys the enemy with the claws of it's fore-feet, which are very terrible weapons. It then lies down on it's back, and uses all the four feet; in which situation, it is almost invincible, and continues the combat to the last extremity: even when it kills it's enemy, it quits him not for a long time after. It is enabled to resist, better than most animals: because it is covered with long bushy hair; it's skin is remarkably thick; it's flesh has little sensation; and it's principle of life is very tenacious.

"All the three Ant-Eaters are natives of the warm climates of America; as Brasil, Guiana, the country of the Amazons, &c. None of them are to be found in Canada, or the northern regions of the New World; and, therefore, should have no existence in the Old Continent. Kolben and Desmarchais, however, mention these animals as natives of Africa; but they seem to have confounded the Scaly Lizard with the Ant-Eaters."

Buffon.

Buffon observes, that "the three Ant-Eaters, which are so different in size, and proportion of body, have many common qualities, both in their structure and manners. They all feed on Ants; and plunge their tongue into honey and other liquid or viscid substances. They readily pick up crumbs of bread, or small morsels of flesh. They are easily tamed. They can subsist a long time without any food. They never swallow all the liquor which they take for drink; a part of it always falling back through the nostrils. They generally sleep during the day, and move about in the night. They run so slowly, that a man may easily overtake them in an open field. Their flesh, though it's taste be very disagreeable, is eaten by the savages."

In Buffon's Supplement, among other particulars, the chief of which are adopted in Pennant's account, he mentions that Messrs. Aublet and Olivier had assured him, that the Great Ant-Eater feeds by means of it's tongue only; which is covered with a viscous humour, to which the insects adhere: and these gentlemen add, that it's flesh is not bad.

M. De

M. De la Borde, as is likewise stated in Buffon's Supplement, says that "the Great Ant-Eater's respiration is performed solely by the nostrils. At the first vertebra, which joins the neck to the head, the wind-pipe is very large: but it suddenly contracts, and forms a canal; which is continued in the horn, or trunk, that serves the animal for an upper jaw, to the nostrils. This horn is a foot in length; being as long, at least, as the rest of the head. The wind-pipe has no opening into the mouth; and yet the aperture of the nostrils is so small, as hardly to admit a common quill. The eyes are very minute, and the animal sees at the sides only. The fat is extremely white."

A variety of the Great Ant-Eater, with a shorter muzzle, and shorter legs, was sent to Buffon, from Guiana. The hair on the sides was two inches and a half long, and as hard, or bristly, to the touch, as that of the Wild Boar. The general colour, deep brown and dusky white. It is made a variety of the Myrmecophaga Jubata, in the Linnæan system, under the appellation Myrmecophaga Jubata Pima, or the Short-Nosed Great Ant-Eater.

AMERICAN WATER-RAIL.

London, Published Dec.r 5-1800, by J. Harrison & Co. No.r 108, Newgate Street.

AMERICAN WATER-RAIL.

N the Linnæan List of objects figured and escribed by Edwards, this bird is simply de-ominated Rallus, or the Rail; but, in the ystema Naturæ, or Linnæan System of Na-ure, it is now called Rallus Virginianus, or he Virginian Rail. Even this latter appel-ation, it is observable, affords no distinction etween Land and Water Rails; which, in ur opinion, constitutes an essential defect. 'ennant, who also calls it the Virginian Rail, artakes in this error: nor is Brisson, who ames it Rallus Pennsylvanicus, or the Penn-ylvanian Rail, exempt from the same impu-ation. The Systema Naturæ, however, de-cribes it to be, probably, a variety of the Rallus Aquaticus: but this we conceive to be nsufficiently certain in itself; and to contain o argument against our objection to the ame. Latham, with more accuracy, pro-ounces it a variety of the Rallus Aquaticus, or Water-Rail; but Edwards, with still more, he American Water-Rail. Perhaps, in strict-ess, it ought to be the North-American

Water-

Water-Rail; as we do not think, with Buffon that it is exactly what he calls the Kiolo, o Rallus Cayennensis of the Linnæan system.

This American Water-Rail, which we hav both named and figured after Edwards, is thu described by that celebrated ornithologist—

"The bill is bowed a little downward; an channelled on the sides of the upper mandibl in which channels the nostrils are placed: it of a dusky colour, but reddish at the base the lower mandible. On the forehead, t base of the bill forms a little baldness, as the Coot and Moor-Hen. The top of t head is black, or dusky; the sides of it are as coloured. Above each eye, and on the throa it is white. The upper part of the neck, a the back, have feathers which are black their middles and brown on their borde The fore-part of the neck, and the breast, a of a brownish orange-colour. The cove feathers of the wings are of a reddish brow The quills next the back, and the tail-feathe are dusky, with brown tips, like the feath of the back. The greater quills are whol

dusk

sky, or black. The ridges of the wings are nite. The inner coverts are dusky, with ep white tips; so as to appear outwardly hite. The insides of the quills are ash-loured. The feathers on the sides, under e wings; lower belly; and thighs; are sky, with transverse lines of white. The verts beneath the tail are white, black, and ange-coloured. The legs are bare of feathers ove the knees. The middle toe equals the g in length. The legs and feet are of a dark sh-colour."

Edwards adds—" This bird was sent from nnsylvania, by Mr. Bartram. It is exactly the size and shape of our English Water-il: and differs hardly in any point, but ving the neck and breast of a reddish colour; hich, in our's, is of a blue ash, or slate-colour. his bird has not before been figured or de-ribed; though I can hardly think that it ffers specifically from the English Water-ail, notwithstanding the difference of co-ur."

This is the entire account published by Edwards;

Edwards; to which we shall add Buffon's description of the Kiolo, in support of our assertion, that it is not exactly the same bird as our American Water-Rail.

"Kiolo," says Buffon, "is the name by which the natives of Cayenne express the cry or puling, of this Rail. It is heard in the evening, at the same hour as the Tinamous; that is, at six o'clock: the instant when the sun sets in the equatorial climates. Their cry is the signal to assemble; for, in the day-time, they lurk dispersed and solitary in the wet-bushes. They make their nest in the little low branches: it consists of a single sort of reddish herb; and is raised into a small vault to prevent the rain from penetrating. The Rail is rather smaller than the Marouette. The fore-side of it's body, and the crown of it's head, are of a fine rufous; and the upper surface is washed with olive-green, on a brown ground. We conceive," concludes Buffon, "that Edwards's Pennsylvanian Rail is the same with this."

Edwards, as the reader has seen, does not

ca

ll it the Pennsylvanian Rail; but the Ame-
can Water-Rail, sent to him from Pennsyl-
ania. It is evidently not peculiar either to
ennsylvania, or to Virginia; but, probably,
qually a native of most of the American states,
n what was formerly called New England.

There are, in the Systema Naturæ, two varieties of the Cayenne Rail, neither of which entirely agree with our American Water-Rail. The first is described as having the crown rufous; the body, above olive-brown, and beneath rufous; the ocular band, blackish; the quill-feathers, black; the bill, brown; and the legs, bay. The second, a bay crown; with the chin and vent reddish white. They are described, indiscriminately, as being inhabitants of Cayenne and Guiana; eight inches long; solitary in the day-time, but noisy, and gregarious, in the evening; and building in the forked branch of a shrub, near the ground.

It seems probable that, notwithstanding the obvious differences, they are all originally of one family: and, as suggested by Edwards, allied

allied to the English Water-Rail; with little or no other difference, than what results from the effect of the various climates, and other local causes.

SURINAM AMPHISBŒNA.

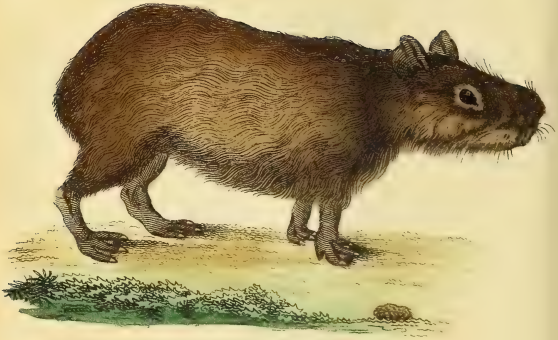
SURINAM AMPHISBŒNA.

THOUGH we have, in conformity with ie idea of Madame Merian, by whom this eautiful Snake was originally figured, denoinated it the Surinam Amphisbœna; we by o means feel satisfied that it is, strictly, even f the Amphisbœna genus, as that lady asserts to be. Indeed, she calls it a Viper; though ie says it is of the Amphisbœna class, the ead being with difficulty distinguishable from he tail without nice inspection. This, cerainly, forms one of the characteristics of Linnæus; who tells us, that the Amphisbœna genus has a tail scarcely to be distinguished rom the head, and very obtuse: but he also ays, that it has no scales; the body being mooth, equal, and cylindrical.

In our figure, which is faithfully copied rom Madame Merian, the scales are abunlantly manifest: nor do the colours agree with iny species of the Amphisbœna described by Linnæus, who has enumerated five different species.

The

The Amphisbœna Magnifica, which is simpl said to be a native of America, makes the neare approach: being variegated with purple, vio let, and yellow; with a yellowish head, an a purplish band over the eyes. The scale however, form an insuparable barrier: no can we, from the figure, venture to pronounc that Madame Merian's Viper is truly an Am phisbœna.



CAPIBARA.

Published April 1st 1800, by Harrison & Co. No. 18, Newgate Street.

CAPIBARA.

THE systematic naturalists appear, at first, to ave mistaken the true character of this ani- ıal. The great Linnæus, in his Systema Na- ıræ, originally called it Sus Hydrochœrus; ut, from subsequent observation, it has since een made the Cavia Capybara, and placed as e last species of the genus Cavy. Pennant, o, in his Synopsis of Quadrupeds, described under the appellation of the Thick-Nosed apiir; and he, afterwards, in his History of Quadrupeds, having found it necessary to alter at arrangement, made it his first species of e Cavy. So that, notwithstanding the dif- rence of it's specific station, it now seems n agreed branch of the Cavy family.

Barrere names it, Sus Maximus Palustris; r, the Largest Marsh-Hog: called, as he says, y the natives, Cabiai, or Cabionara. It is he Hydrochœrus, of Brisson; the Capybara, f Marcgrave, of Piso, of Johnston, and of Ray; the Capivard, of Froger; the River Hog, of Wafer; the Cabiai, of Buffon; and the

the Cavia Capybara, of Pallas, and of all othe
late naturalists. Capybara, or Capibara, it i
to be observed, is the Brasilian name of thi
animal.

Buffon says, that " this animal was neve
seen in Europe, till the Duke De Bouillon ha
a young one transmitted to him from Americ
As this prince is exceedingly curious," pro
ceeds Buffon, " with regard to foreign an
mals, he has sometimes done me the honou
of inviting me to examine them, and has eve
been kind enough to present me with sever
species. The animal under consideration w
killed by the coldness of the climate, before
had acquired it's full growth. It is not a Ho
as has been alledged by naturalists and travo
lers; for, it has only some slight relations
the Hog, and differs in several remarkal
characters. The Cabiai never exceeds the si
of a Hog of eighteen months old. It's he
is shorter, and it's mouth less. It's feet ar
also, very different from those of the Ho
for, it's toes are connected by membranes.
has larger eyes, and shorter ears. In disp
sitions, and manners, it differs not less fro
t

e Hog, than in the structure of it's parts. It ves much in the water; where it swims like n Otter, catches fish with it's mouth and feet, nd eats them on the banks. It likewise eats rains, fruits, and Sugar-Canes. As it's feet re long and broad, it often sits on the hind nes. Instead of the grunting of a Hog, it's ry rather resembles the braying of an Ass. It eldom walks, but in the night; and, then, enerally in company, without removing far rom the margin of the water. As it runs adly, on account of the length of it's feet and he shortness of it's legs, it's safety consists not n flight. To escape the hunters, it plunges nto the water; swims to a great distance; and remains so long concealed, that they lose all hopes of getting another view of it. The flesh of it, is fat and tender; but, like that of the Otter, it has rather the taste of bad fish, than of good flesh. It has been remarked, however, that it's head is pretty good: which corresponds with what is said of the Beaver; that the flesh of it's anterior parts is well tasted, while that of the posterior parts has the taste of fish. The Cabiai is of a gentle and peaceable disposition: it neither quarrels with, nor does mischief

chief to, other animals. It is easily tamed: obeys the voice; and follows, spontaneously, those with whom it is acquainted, and who treat it kindly. At Paris, it was fed with Barley, sallads, and fruit; and it continued in good condition during the warm season. From the great number of paps, it appears that the Female is very prolific. We are ignorant of the times of gestation, and growth; and, consequently, of the duration of it's life. Our colonists at Cayenne might inform us with regard to these articles: for this animal is pretty common in Guiana; as well as in Brasil, the country of the Amazons, and other low lands of South America."

Such is the account of this animal, as it was originally published by Buffon; and we have translated the whole of it, though the reader will perceive, by what follows, that it is in some respects erroneous. Of this, Buffon was himself sensible; and, accordingly, in his Supplement, candidly acknowledges what he had discovered to be wrong.

As we gave the whole of his first account, we shall now subjoin his entire Supplement—

"We

"We have," says he, "little to add, to the istory and description of this American ani- ıal. M. De la Borde writes us, that it is very ommon in Guiana; and still more so, in the eighbourhood of the Amazonian river, where ıe fishes are extremely numerous. He re- ıarks, that these animals go always in pairs, a Iale and a Female; and, that the largest of ıem weigh about a hundred pounds. They y from the abodes of men; never leave the anks of rivers; and, when they perceive any erson, they take to the water, without diving ke the Otter, but swimming like the Hog. ometimes, however, they go to the bottom, nd continue there a considerable time. They re often taken, when young; and brought up ı the house, where they easily accustom them- elves to eat bread, Millet, and pot-herbs: hough, in a state of nature, they live chiefly ın fishes. The Females bring forth only one oung at a time. They are by no means dan- gerous; for they never attack either Men or Dogs. Their flesh is white, tender, and well- asted. This last fact seems to contradict what s said by other travellers; that the flesh of the Cabiai has rather the taste of bad fish, than of

good

good meat. However, the flesh of the Cabiai when it lives on fish, may have this bad taste; and, when fed with bread or grain, it may be very good.

"As we had," concludes Buffon, "this animal alive in Paris, and kept it a long time, I am persuaded that it might be propagated in our climate. I mentioned, above, that it was killed by the cold. I have, however, since been informed, that it endured the winter's cold very well: but, as it was shut up in a garret, it threw itself down, and fell into a vessel full of water, where it was drowned; which would not have happened, if it had not been hurt, in the fall, on the edge of the vessel."

To this account, we shall add the short history and description given by Pennant; particularly, as it affords some additional information, without which the description of the animal could not be considered as compleat.

"The Capibara," says Pennant, "has a very large and thick head and nose; small rounded ears

ars; large black eyes; and the upper jaw is onger than the lower. It has too strong and reat cutting-teeth, in each jaw; and also, in ach jaw, eight grinders, each of which form, n their surface, seemingly, three teeth, each of them flat at their ends. Marcgrave, and Des Marchais, who had opportunities of examining these animals in their native country, agree in this singular construction of the teeth. The legs are short: the toes, which are long, are connected, near the bottom, by a small web, the ends being guarded by a small hoof. It has no tail. The hair on the body is short, rough, and of a brown colour; on the nose, are long and hard whiskers. It grows to the size of a Hog of two years old.

"This animal inhabits the country from the Isthmus of Darien to the Brasils, and even to Paraguay. It lives in the fenny parts, not remote from the great rivers; such as the Oronoque, Amazons, and Rio de la Plata. It runs slowly; but swims, and dives, remarkably well, and keeps for a long time under water. It feeds on fruits and vegetables; and is very dexterous at catching fish; which it brings on shore,

shore, and eats at it's ease. It sits up, an holds it's prey with it's fore-feet; feeding lik an Ape. It feeds in the night, and commi great ravages in gardens. It keeps in larg herds; and makes a horrible noise, like th braying of an Ass. It grows very fat; th flesh, which is eaten, is tender, but has an oil and fishy taste. It is easily made tame, an soon grows very familiar."

Pennant omits to mention, that this anima brings forth only one at a time: and Buffon who had formerly, from the great number o paps, pronounced that it must be very prolific takes no notice of the contrary assertion i his Supplement; which, is at least, a remark-able, if not an incredible, circumstance.

GREEN TODY.

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GREEN TODY.

THIS elegant and beautiful bird was origi-
ıally figured by Edwards, under the appella-
ion of the Green Sparrow, or Green Hum-
ning-Bird. Our ingenious ornithologist, how-
ver, appears to have been egregiously mis-
aken, in his idea of referring it to either of
hose classes: nor is his assertion, that "it
elongs to the same genus with the bird which
e has called the Pyed Bird of Paradise," by
ny means tenable.

Having premised this, as a sufficient reason
or departing from our usual practice of adopt-
ıg Edwards's names, with his figures, we shall
ermit him to speak for himself.

"This bird," says Edwards, "was
rought from Jamaica by Mr. Harper, and is
hat Sir Hans Sloane has described by the
bove name," [the Green Sparrow, or Green
Iumming-Bird] "in the second volume of
is History of Jamaica. There was brought
nother of the same species with this; which,
I suppose,

I suppose, was the Hen, it's colours being no so bright. This bird belongs to the same ge nus with that described in this book, called th Pyed Bird of Paradise; though they appear s unlike, and come from such distant parts o the world. The compression of their bill the bristles at their bases, and the structure o the feet, are sufficient arguments to prove the kindred. It's Latin name, in Sir Hans Sloane History, is Rubecula Viridis Elegantissima."

Notwithstanding these resemblances, the to tal difference of the tail, and colour, are alo sufficient marks of distinction; without r garding their local distances from each othe which circumstance seems also entitled to son consideration.

But, though Edwards has certainly erred i his history of this bird, his description of t figure has all his accustomed minuteness a accuracy. We shall, therefore, subjoin verbatim—

"The bill," says he, "is long, in pr portion, like that of the King's-Fisher; a much broader than deep, like a Duck's b

It is ridged along the top of the upper mandible; the nostrils are placed on each side of the ridge, near the head: the upper mandible is of a dusky brown; the lower, of a yellow or orange-colour. At the base of the bill are placed stiff black hairs, or bristles, standing forwards. The whole upper side of the bird, from bill to tail-end, is of a very fine parrot-green. The inner coverts of the wings are white; the inside of the quills, and the under side of the tail, are of a brownish ash-colour. Five or six of the prime quills are dusky, or black at their tips. The throat is of a very fine red. The breast, belly, thighs, and covert feathers under the tail, are white, a little shaded with a pale green. The legs and feet, are of a dusky colour; the toes joined, as they are in the King's-Fisher."

This bird is, in fact, the Todus Viridis, or Green Tody, of Linnæus, of Pennant, and of Latham; the North-American Tody, of Buffon; the Red-Breasted Green Tody, of Browne; and the Sylvia Gulâ Phœniceâ, of Klein.

Buffon, who affords us the best history of the

the Todiers, or Todies, observes that "Sloan and Browne are the first who have describe one of these birds, which they term Todus But," adds he, "besides this species from Ja maica, we know two or three others, which all seem to be natives of the hot climates o America. The discriminating character o the genus is that, as in the Kingfishers, an the Manakins, the middle toe is closely con nected—and, as it were, glued—to the outer toe, as far as the third joint; but cohering t the inner-toe, in the same way, only at th first joint. If we rested on this property therefore, we should class the Todies with th Manakins, or the Kingfishers: but they ar distinguished from these—and, indeed, fro all other birds—by the form of the bill; whic is long, straight, blunt at the end, and flattene above and below; so that they have bee called, by the Creoles of Guiana, Little Pa lets, or Little Spatulas. This singular co formation of their bill is alone sufficient t constitute a distinct genus.

"The North American Tody," continu Buffon, "is not larger than the Gold-Cresto

Wre

/ren, being about four inches long. We ıall not, here," he observes, "copy the long :scriptions given by Browne, Sloane, and risson; because it will always be easy to stinguish the bird: for, besides the peculiari- of the bill, the upper side of the body, in the Iale, is of a dilute green, and the under side ›se-colour; and, in the Female, the back is a fine green, and the rest of the plumage milar to that of the Male. In both, the bill reddish; but lighter below, and brown ›ove. The legs are grey; and the nails long ıd hooked. The bird feeds on insects, and nall worms; and it inhabits wet and seques- red spots. The two subjects designed in the lanches Enluminées, were sent us from Do- ingo by M. Chervain, under the name of round Parrots, but with the description of the emale only. He observes that, in the love ason, the Male has a feeble, though pleasant, arble—that the Female builds her nest in the y ground; and, preferably on the friable ould: and, for that reason, these birds chuse ıe ravines and water-gullies—that they often estle also, in the low gullies of houses, yet ways on the ground—that they make an ex-

cavation

cavation with their bill and claws; give it round form; hollow out the bottom; and plac pliant straws, dry moss, cotton, and feather which they artfully arrange—and, that the lay four or five eggs; which are grey, an spotted with deep yellow.

"They catch, with great dexterity, flie and other small winged-insects. They ar difficult to tame: yet we may succeed, if the are young; and fed by their parents, in a cag till they can eat by themselves. They have strong attachment to their brood; and will n leave them, as long as they hear them cry.

"We have seen, that Sloane and Brown found this bird in Jamaica: it occurs, also, i Martinico; whence M. De Chanvalon sent to M. De Reaumur. It appears, therefor that this species inhabits the islands, and co tinent, in the warmest parts of North-Amer ca: but we cannot discover whether it also r sides in South-America; at least, Marcgra makes no mention of it."

LIGNEOUS WALNUT.

Published April 10 1807 by Harrison & Co. No 108 Newgate Street

IGNEOUS WALNUT, OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

.HE general appearance of this branch, hich is an accurate copy of the original rawing after nature, made in New South Vales, seems to justify our distinguishing it y the appellation of the Ligneous Walnut. ndeed, the leaves, as well as the fruit, greatly esemble the European Walnut, both in form nd in colour; nor does the branch seem at ll dissimilar.

The truth of representation is certain; but, s the drawing was unaccompanied by any information whatever, we are unable to state ven the magnitude of the tree from which his branch was taken. A section of the fruit, however, discovered two dusky ligneous seeds, n the centre; of an oblong form, incurvated, and pointed at the extremities. All the internal part of the fruit appears to be ligneous.

SONCAR.

London Published by [illegible] & Co. No. 8. Newgate Street.

SONGAR.

HIS elegantly formed little animal appears have been but recently discovered. It was as first figured and described by Dr. Pallas, e celebrated Russian naturalist; who obrves, that it makes a nearer approach to the amster, as well in it's form, as in the disposion of it's colours, than the rest of this tribe. hough unknown to Linnæus, Dr. Gmelin is placed it in the Systema Naturæ, under the pellation of the Mus Cricetus Songarus. It the Songar Rat, of Pennant; as well as of her English naturalists, in general: Mr. err, however, in his Mammalia of Linnæus, nominates it the Songar Hamster. Buffon akes not the smallest mention of this animal: t he must, we apprehend, have been acainted with Dr. Pallas's work, in which it as originally described; for, though we have onounced the discovery of the Songar to be rent, it is not so very recent as to have escaped e research of Pennant, in the second edition of is History of Quadrupeds, which was publish- in 1793.

In

In naming this little animal, we have no exactly followed any of the Naturalists. We feel an inconsistency, in applying the name o Rat, to an animal only three inches in length whatever may be it's affinity to that tribe: and though Mr. Kerr's expedient of denominating it the Songar Hamster, founded on the ac knowledged similarity in most other respect except the size, may seem to have somewha less of impropriety, we deem it far better t call it merely the Songar; leaving every on to consider it, either as a Mouse, or a Ra agreeably to their respective opinions on th subject.

We may, here, be permitted to remark, th there is, perhaps, too little discriminatio among the systematic naturalists, between th various species of the Rat and the Mice tribe To an English ear, at least, the word Rat co veys an idea of proportionate magnitude, a that of Mouse, of minuteness, which it wou be difficult, if it were necessary, for scienti language entirely to banish from the mind: y the smaller of these animals are sometimes nam Rats, and the larger, Mice; without any app re

nt rule of distinction, founded on their propor-onate size in comparison with each other.

We do not undertake the regulation of sys-m, but we may be allowed to suggest hints or those who shall hereafter be engaged in romoting it's perfection.

With respect to the Songar, which is re-resented in our annexed figure, from Dr. allas, there appears to be very little known: othing, perhaps, by any writer of natural his-ory, beyond what the original describer has ublished.

We shall, however, transcribe it's history nd description from Pennant; which is as ollows—

"This animal," he tells us, "is three inches n length. It has a large thick head, and blunt ose. The ears are oval, very thin, appear bove the fur, and are very slightly cloathed vith hairy down. The tail is very short, lunt, thick, and hairy. The colour of the ongar, above, is a cinereous grey; marked

along

along the back, from head to tail, with a black line. The sides of the head, and the body, are marked with great white spots: in certain parts, running into one; in others, bounded with brown. The belly, and the insides of the legs, are white.

"It is an inhabitant of Siberia: and found, chiefly, in the dry, sandy, saline places; particularly, the sandy plains of the Baraba, not far from the River Irtish. It dwells, during the summer, in the shallow newly-formed burrows; those of the Females, however, have a very deep oblique passage at the end. The nest is formed of dried herbs.

"In one of these nests, Dr. Pallas found seven young: and, from this nest, there ran another deep hole; perhaps, the winter retreat. The young were much grown, yet still blind. Dr. Pallas preserved them long. They soon grew familiar, contrary to the nature of other Mice. They would feed from the Doctor's hand; lap milk; and, when placed on a table, shewed no desire of running away but were slower, in all their motions, than the

other

her species. They washed their faces with eir paws; and eat, sitting up. They wan-red about, in the day and morning; and slept, l night, rolled up. They seldom made any y; when they did, it was like that of a at."

Dr. Pallas informs us, which Pennant has nitted, that he kept them in a box, with sand, which they delighted to burrow. The tail little more than a quarter of an inch in length. ach of the feet has four toes; and a knob, ithout any claw, in place of the fifth.

SPOTTED BLUE FLY.

Drawn, Engraved & Coloured from Life by Mrs. Mary Nugent, Mad.

SPOTTED BLUE FLY,
OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE insect represented in the annexed figure, is called, by the settlers at New South Wales, their common House Fly. As, however, it appears to have four wings, it cannot be a Diptera; and, indeed, though it bears some distant resemblance to our Blue Flesh Fly, the Vomitoria of Linnæus, the white spots are never found in that species. Perhaps, in every thing but colour, it more nearly approximates the Common Bee Fly, than any other insect; yet that has only two wings.

Our original drawing, the fidelity of which, from the living object, is not to be doubted, was received without any other information, than that it was esteemed the Common House Fly of New South Wales. As we entertain considerable doubt with respect to it's being a Domestic Flesh Fly, we have barely denominated it, from it's appearance, the Spotted Blue Fly of New South Wales.

It is said to be represented exactly of the natural size.

BLACK SPARROW.

London, Published May [illegible] by [illegible] & Co. No. [illegible] Newgate Street.

BLACK SPARROW.

THIS bird, which appears to have been first igured by Edwards, is called the Black or Dusky Sparrow: a name which, though we iave retained, we cannot say that we greatly pprove. Edwards, himself, does not seem to iave been satisfied that the bird was, in fact, o much a Sparrow, as a Grosbeak. "I have," ays he, "after Sir Hans Sloane, called it a parrow; though, from the shortness and thickess of the bill, I think it might have been lassed with the Grosbeaks." In this reasonng, we entirely agree; but are not willing astily to disturb established names or classifiations. It is not a little singular that, in the innæan List of Edwards's birds, this Black parrow is called the Muscicapa Olivacea: yet dwards's Olive-Coloured Flycatcher, a bird every respect different, is very properly nominated, in the same List, the Muscicapa livacea, alfo. For this mistake, it is not easy account. Linnæus, we apprehend, could ver take this Sparrow, or Grosbeak, to be a ly catcher!

The

The following is the description given by Edwards—

"The bill of the Male is of a dusky brown colour. From the nostrils, on each side of the head, above the eyes, are extended lines of an orange-colour: the throat, immediately beneath the bill; and the covert-feathers, under the tail; are of the same orange-colour. The head, except the before-mentioned marks; the neck; and the back; are of a dark ash-colour, or blueish black. The wings and tail are dusky, but more inclined to brown. The covert-feathers within-side of the wings; the insides of the quills, and under sides of the tail-feathers are ash-coloured, lighter than they are above. The whole under side, from the throat to the covert-feathers of the tail exclusive, is of a blueish ash-colour, something lighter than the upper side. The legs, feet, and claws, are of a blackish colour.

"The Female has the bill of a dusky brown colour. The marks above the eyes, on the throat, and beneath the tail, which are orange coloured in the Male, are only clay-colour

in the Female. The head, back, wings, and tail, are of an ash-coloured brown, like that of a Common Hen Sparrow. The first row of coverts, above the quills, and the covert-feathers on the upper side of the tail, are brighter, and incline to orange-colour. The tails, in both Male and Female, have twelve feathers. The covert-feathers within-side of the wings are of a yellowish white. The feathers on the belly and thighs are whitish, a little shaded with light ash-colour. The legs and feet are dusky.

"The Male has been described by Sir Hans Sloane, in his History of Jamaica, but he has given no figure of it; nor is it figured, I believe, by any other author. Brisson has given a figure and description of a Black Sparrow, which he supposes to be that of Sloane: but the bill of his is too much arched, and his description differs too much, for me to conclude that his bird is specifically the same with Sloane's, and this of mine here figured."

Buffon, in his history and description of Foreign Birds related to the House Sparrow, describes

describes the Black Sparrow in the following terms—

"There are," says he, after describing the Senegal Sparrow, and the Red-Billed Senegal Sparrow, "other foreign birds, however, which, though analogous to the House Sparrow, must be regarded as of a different species. Such is the American Bird, which the inhabitants of the French West India islands call the Black Father—Pere Noir—represented in the Planches Enluminées. It would appear to be settled not only in these islands, but on the continent of South America, as at Mexico: for it is described by Fernandez, under the Mexican name of Yohualtototl; as well as mentioned by Sir Hans Sloane, as a native of Jamaica, under the name of the Black Sparrow marked with Saffron Spots. We suppose, also, that the two birds, Number 224, in the Planches Enluminées, are only varieties of this. The only thing which awakens this conjecture is, that they were found in climates very distant from each other: the first from Macao; the second, from Java; and, the third, from Cayenne. I still conceive, however, that they are varieties

of

of the Black Sparrow: for the climates allotted to them by the importers, are not to be considered as certain; and, besides, this species may occur equally in hot countries, in both continents.

"There are others, also, which may be regarded as varieties of this species. The Brasil sparrows, in the Planches Enluminées, resemble the Black Sparrows, so that we cannot hesitate to assign them the same place. The resemblance is, indeed, the most perfect in the Male, for the Female differs widely in it's colours; but this circumstance only apprizes us, of the uncertainty of any classification founded on the plumage.

"Lastly, there is another species which we should range with the Black Sparrow, but for the great difference in the length of the tail. This bird is delineated, in the Planches Enluminées, under the name of the Sparrow of the Kingdom of Juida. We may consider it as a variety of the Black Sparrow; distinguished by its long tail, which consists of unequal quills. If we have been rightly informed, with respect to the climates, it would appear that the Black

Sparrow

Sparrow is found in the Antilles, in Jamaica, in Mexico, in Cayenne, in Brasil, in the kingdom of Juida, in Abyssinia, in Java, and as far as Macao; that is, in all the tropical countries both of the New and of the Old Continent."

It is manifest, from the above account, that our Black Sparrow of Sir Hans Sloane, and of Edwards, is the Black Father, or Pere Noir of the inhabitants of the French West India Islands; and the Mexican Yohualtototl, mentioned by Fernandez. The Brasil Sparrow, as Buffon suggests, may also be a variety only of the Black Sparrow: but the Long-Tailed Sparrow, we incline to think, is a quite different species; probably, even a different genus. Edwards has figured the Ring-Tailed Sparrow with the Dusky Linnet, on one Plate; and the Linnæan List has only a single name for both—Emberiza Principalis. In the System Naturæ, however, there is no species whatever, of the Emberiza, which is named Principalis. This is another unaccountable error.

With regard to the colour of this Black Sparrow

parrow of the naturalists, it certainly is not of sufficient blackness to warrant that epithet; to say nothing of the orange-red spots, by which it is far more distinguished from the usual brown of the Domestic Sparrow. Indeed, in London, we often see the Common House Sparrows nearly as dark as this bird; occasioned, as is commonly supposed, by the influence of the smoke amidst which these birds reside on our house-tops.

AFRICAN COAST-RAT.

Published June 7 1802, by Harrison & Co. Wardour Street.

AFRICAN COAST-RAT.

THOUGH we have been hastily betrayed, by modern naturalists, into an adoption of the name of Coast-Rat, for this animal; we are, on reflection, inclined to consider this appellation as by no means sufficiently expressive of it's nature, which greatly approximates to that of the Mole.

In the synonimes collected by Dr. Shaw, for his recent publication of General Zoology, that gentleman, who calls this animal simply the Coast-Rat, gives it as the Mus Maritimus of Gmelin's Edition of the Systema Naturæ of Linnæus; whereas Mr. Kerr, in his excellent Translation of the Mammalia of Linnæus, presents it, with what appears to us superior propriety, as the Mus Myotalpa Maritima, or African Mole-Rat.

Perhaps, were we strictly to pursue our own inclination, instead of exactly adopting either of these names, or any other which it has yet received from travellers or naturalists, we might form

form a combination, including the different ideas of the respectable naturalists just mentioned, by denominating it the African Coast Mole-Rat.

But, after all, we are far from certain, that it would not be best, in this, as in most other cases, to adhere strictly to the all together incomparable Linnæus: who has sufficiently characterised it, by his "Mus Myotalpa Maritima;" which might be literally rendered, "the Maritime Mole-Rat."

The first deviation seems fairly ascribable to the ingenious Dr. Gmelin; whom Dr. Shaw appears to have followed: and by which we have, ourselves, been misled; for want of an earlier recurrence to Mr. Kerr's admirable, but neglected, translation of a part of the Systema Naturæ. That this most able naturalist was not encouraged to proceed, by any adequate public encouragement of his indefatigable labours, is a sort of national reproach!

"The animals of this subdivision of the genus," says Mr. Kerr, in a note to his Myotalpæ,

talpæ, or Mole-Rats, "are named Mures Subterranei—[Subterraneous Rats]—by Dr. Gmelin; but the word Myotalpa—[Mole Rat]—is preferred, in this edition, as being better adapted for the purpose of a subgenus."

The synonimes of Dr. Shaw are, first, his own Coast-Rat; secondly, the Mus Maritimus, from Gmelin's Linnæus; thirdly, La Grande Taupe du Cap, from Buffon's Supplement; and, lastly, the African Rat, from Pennant's History of Quadrupeds.

Mr. Kerr's synonimes are, in our estimation, clearly preferable; and we shall therefore adopt them.

This animal, then, is the Mus Myotalpa Maritima, of Linnæus; the Zand-Moll, of Masson's Travels, in the Philosophical Transactions; the Cape Mole, of Monsieur De la Caille; La Taupe des Dunes, or Mole of the Sand-Hills, of Allamand's edition of Buffon's Supplement; and the African Mole-Rat, of Pennant.

It

It is remarkable that Pennant, in describing this animal, says that "it inhabits the sandy country near the Cape of Good Hope, where it is called Sand Moll:" taking, as it should seem, from Masson, the Dutch name Zand Moll; and leaving the latter word untranslated, which conveys a vulgar and improper idea to the mind of an English reader, and not at all connected with a Mole. He repeats, at the end of his description—"This animal, from it's superior size, I suppose to be the Sand-Moll, of Mr. Masson;" where, undoubtedly, he should have given it in Masson's original words, "Zand-Moll."

This animal is by much the largest species of the Rat race; being as thick as a Rabbit, and measuring fifteen inches from the nose to the tip of the tail. The tail is only two inches long. It has a large head; and the nose is black, though the natural colour of the animal is a cinereous brown, palest on the under parts. The end of the nose is flat, and somewhat wrinkled. The eyes are very small, and almost hid in the fur. There is no appearance of any external ears, the foramina alone being

ng visible. The front-teeth are very large: he upper pair which are furrowed lengthways, are the third of an inch long; and the ower pair, which extend to the length of an nch and a quarter, are naked, and stand naturally exposed to view, the lip not closing over them. These lower teeth the animal is said o have the power of separating, or divaricating, at pleasure, in the same manner as the Kangaroo. The legs are short: and, on the fore-feet, there are five toes, the interior of which is the longest, and the others gradually shorter. The claws are very long, sharp, and slightly bent; that on the thumb being shorter than the others. The soles are naked, and distinguished by two great tubercles. The hind-feet, on which the animal rests, even to the heel, are very long, large, and naked. They have five toes, with shorter claws than those of the fore-feet. The hair on the sides of the feet is very strong and bristly. The tail is flattened: and covered, on it's upper and under surfaces, with short hair; but fringed, at the edges, with very long bristles, horizontally disposed.

It

It inhabits the sand hills adjacent to the sea, in the Cape of Good Hope, and is said never to be found in the interior parts of the country.

It is known, at the Cape, by the name of the Zand Moll, or Sand Mole; an appellation which might alone have been sufficient, had naturalists and travellers so pleased.

It forms burrows in the sands, like those of Rabbits, which it digs with surprising celerity. By flinging up the earth, or sand, in thus forming it's burrows, the ground is often rendered so hollow, in the places it most frequents, as to prove highly inconvenient to travellers; breaking, as it is asserted, at intervals of a few minutes only, under the horses feet, and letting them in up to the shoulders.

The food of this animal is supposed chiefly to consist of bulbous rooted plants; particularly, the Ixiæ, the Antholyzæ, the Gladioli, and the Irides.

From the abundance of these animals in the vicinity of the Cape, they are supposed to be very

ery prolific: probably, like most of the kin-
red species, though particulars are not gene-
ally known.

The flesh is, by some travellers, considered
s good eating. Indeed, there is scarcely any
hing eatable, which some do not consider as
;ood, and even delicious.

AMERICAN NIGHTINGALE.

Published June 7th 1800 by Harrison & Co. Warwick Square.

AMERICAN NIGHTINGALE.

THIS bird was originally figured by Ed-
vards; and we have adopted the name under
hich he described it, though the naturalists
n general do not seem to consider it as ab-
olutely a Nightingale.

They class it, however, among the Warb-
rs; and, therefore, we perceive no very ma-
rial objection to considering it, with Ed-
vards, as the American Nightingale.

It is probable enough, that he might receive
under this appellation, though he does not
ctually tell us so.

He merely says, that it was brought from
maica, by Mr. Harper, a Surgeon, late of
lastow, in Essex—and that it differs from
ny description which Edwards himself can
nd; but comes nearest the Spanish Nightin-
le, in Sir Hans Sloane's History of Jamaica,
e author of which gives it the Latin name of
terus Minor, Nidum Suspendens.

It

It appears to be the Motacilla-Callidris, o
Linnæus and Gmelin; the Sylvia Callidris, o
Hang-Nest Warbler, of Latham; and the Fi
cedula Jamaicensis, or Great Fig-Eater of Ja
maica, of Brisson, and of Buffon.

The description which Edwards gives o
this bird is as follows—

"As I have," says he, "been very precis
in figuring the bill, I need only say, that th
upper mandible is of a dusky or blackish co
lour, and the under one of a flesh colour: th
nostrils are placed close to the feathers of th
forehead. The top of the head, upper side o
the neck, the back, and the upper sides of th
wings and tail, are of a dark greenish-brow
colour; though the rump, and borders of th
wing-feathers, are more of a yellowish gree
The under side, from bill to tail, is of a di
orange-colour. The inner covert-feathers o
the wings, and the inner webs of the quill a
tail feathers, are of the same orange-colou
From above the angles of the mouth, the
passes a dusky line through each eye; an
from beneath the angles of the mouth, the
pass

passes, under each eye, another dusky line. From the nostrils, there pass lines of orange above the eyes. The legs, feet, and claws, are of a dirty brown or blackish colour, formed as in most other small birds."

This is all the history and description which Edwards affords us: nor does the account of Buffon, which we shall also extract, present much additional information—

"Edwards," he remarks, "was the first who described this bird. He terms it," says Buffon, "the American Nightingale. But it is by no means a Nightingale; and it has all the characters of the Fig-Eater, with which Brisson has properly arranged it. The upper mandible is blackish; the lower flesh-coloured. The upper surface of the back, of the head, and of the wings, is brown; with an obscure tinge of greenish. The edges of the wings are of a lighter greenish yellow. An orange colour predominates on the under side of the body, from the throat to the tail. The inferior coverts of the wings, and all those of the tail, and also the inner webs of the quills, are

of

of the same colour. From the angle of the bill, a black streak stretches across the eye; and another extends below it. Between these two, and under them, the orange forms two bars. The legs and toes are blackish. The bird is nearly as large as the Redbreast, and not quite so thick. Edwards remarks, that it bears great resemblance to what Sloane, in his Natural History of Jamaica, calls the Icterus Minor, Nidum Suspendens."

It is easy to perceive, that Buffon, like ourselves, owes all that he has given respecting this bird, to Edwards; except, only, that he adopts the appellation under which it is described by Brisson.

It may be proper to remark that, though we have no invincible objection to considering this bird as the Nightingale of America, in contradistinction to the European Nightingale, we would not by any means contend for the propriety of giving so general a name as that which embraces a whole continent, to any single object found only in particular parts of it. Even Europe, the various countries of which

which consist of climates far less different than those of America, could be seldom with so much strictness considered as the universal parent of any particular species, as to sustain the epithet of European, in any just general application.

We continue the familiar name, under which Edwards has figured and described this bird; chiefly, because we have copied his figure and description, and because we are not prepared to assert that either of the names given to it by subsequent naturalists are in any important degree less exceptionable. With all our great sense of their extraordinary merits, we feel our mental independence reject an implicit acquiescence in every thing which even the most learned and sagacious of mankind offer to our attention.

Those, perhaps, who are most sensible of their extraordinary merits, are the most likely to discover occasional deviations from that perfection which no human ability can reasonably expect ever to reach.

NAKED LIGNEOUS WALNUT.

Published June 7 1805 by Harrison & Co. Westminster Hospital.

NAKED LIGNEOUS WALNUT,

OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

THOUGH we have named the annexed figure, the Naked Ligneous Walnut, to distinguish it from the plant, or tree, which we have denominated the Ligneous Walnut only, they by no means appear to be of the same species. This fruit, or seed, has no smooth or external covering; like our European Walnuts, and the Ligneous Walnut of New South Wales: at least, in the stage of it's growth represented by our original drawing. But, if it should be supposed likely to have lost any external covering, in consequence of reaching it's full maturity—which we do not by any means suspect—as the Ligneous Walnut's outer coat still adheres, though the nut appears burst with ripeness; there is, still, such prodigious difference in the form of the leaves, as to leave no doubt of their being distinct species.

Not having received any information with either of the drawings, except that they were represented

represented of the natural size; we cannot ascertain the magnitude of the trees, or shrubs, which produce these ligneous fruits. The drawings, however, as far as comparison can be made, seem to denote their resemblance to the common Walnut Tree; our prints being reduced to only about half the size in which the original drawings represent the foliage and the fruit.

GREAT SQUIRREL.

As this fine animal is the largest of the genus, which has yet been discovered, being in size equal to a large Cat, it seems sufficiently distinguished by the name of the Great Squirrel.

It is, in fact, the Sciurus Maximus, of Gmelin's edition of the Systema Naturæ; having been first noticed by Sonnerat, since the death of Linnæus. Sonnerat calls it, the Great Squirrel of the Coast of Malabar. He informs us, that it is a native of India, found in the Malabar country; and, particularly, about the mountains of Cardamore, which form part of the Gauts.

It is said to feed on fruits; and to be remarkably fond of the milk of the Cocoa-Nut. These nuts, it has been observed, the animal pierces, when ripe, "in order to obtain the liquor:" as if it were any thing extraordinary for a Squirrel to bore a nut, or that it had no

inclination

inclination for the kernel! We shall not go the length, to assert that this Squirrel never drinks the delicious milk of the Cocoa; but, had we been told that it did not, we should have far sooner admitted the truth of such an assertion, than that it can possibly so disregard the substantial and agreeable food of the kernel, as only to pierce the shell for the sake of the milk.

The fur of this animal, which is in general long and full, is of a ferruginous colour on the top of the head, as well as on the back and sides. The ears, which are small, and erect, are also ferruginous; and a small band of a similar colour passes, from beneath each ear along the neck, extending toward the sides. The front of the neck, the commencement of the body, and the external parts of the shoulders and thighs, are black. The tail, which is longer than the body; and which, when fully expanded, appears nearly equal to it in size; is, also, black. The head, and under part of the neck, with the exceptions already mentioned, as well as the insides of the limbs

ar

and the belly, are of a yellowish ferruginous colour, somewhat palest on the breast. The insides are of a pale yellow. There are four toes on the fore-feet, armed with crooked claws; the fifth toe, or thumb, is very small, and has a minute rounded nail: the hind-feet have five toes, all of them with strong crooked claws.

According to Sonnerat, the Great Squirrel is easily tamed; and it is said to be known by the name of the Great Wood-Rat, on the Malabar coast, and in the adjacent country.

Pennant, who calls it the Malabar Squirrel, seems to have mistaken Sonnerat's description. He says that, "instead of a thumb, to the hind-foot, there is a short excrescence, with a flat nail; all the other nails are strong and crooked." This may be what is called an error of the press, substituting the hind-foot for the fore-foot; which agrees with the figure, and the fact. There is, however, some objection to his account of the colour of this animal's fur. "The hair," he tells us, "is long; of a red-

dish

dish colour, reflecting gold: a beard of the same begins under each ear, and turns toward the body. All the hind part of the body and tail is black." This is not quite correct.

The animal is said to have a sharp and piercing cry.

WAX BILL.

Published June 21 1802 by Harrison & Co. No. 108 Newgate Street.

WAX-BILL.

THIS curious and beautiful bird has been twice figured by Edwards; the last, is that which we have copied in the print annexed.

The Wax-Bill is the Loxia Astrild of Linnæus; the Senegalus Striatus, or Radiated Senegal, of Brisson and Buffon; the Fringilla Undulata, of Pallas; and the Wax-Bill Grosbeak, of Latham.

Edwards observes, that the bill is of a fine red colour, like sealing-wax; which circumstance, he supposes, gave the bird it's name. We are of the same opinion: but, though we have also adopted it, we cannot avoid remarking, that the word Wax, or even Sealing-Wax, by no means necessarily suggests to our minds the colour of Red; and, therefore, a more accurate appellation might be found. It is but justice, however, to suggest, that at the period when the bird was thus first named, there might not, as at present, be Sealing-Wax of any other colour than red. Still, this is not

the

the natural colour of wax. It is singular that, when we speak of Wax as a colour; instead of having an idea of white or yellow, as Wax is most commonly seen, a peculiarly delicate tinge of flesh-colour, generally presents itself to our imagination: perhaps, from a mental association of the word, with Wax-work figures; a view of which so powerfully impresses every juvenile mind.

The description which Edwards gives of the bird which we have now figured, is as follows—

"It's bill is of a fine red colour, and resembles the best red sealing-wax. From the nostrils, on each side of the head, are extended scarlet marks, ending in points about the place of the ears: and, in these red spaces, the eyes are placed. The top of the head, neck, whole upper side, back, wings, and tail, are of a dark brown; with five transverse lines of black on the head and back, growing broader on the greater wing and tail-feathers. The throat, breast, belly, and thighs, are of the same brown colour as the back: but lighter, and brighter, having

having five transverse dusky lines, as on the upper side. Down the middle of the belly, there is a broken line of fine red. The insides of wings, are of a light brown, without transverse lines. The under side of the tail is of a lighter brown than the upper, with transverse lines. The lower-belly, and covert-feathers beneath the tail, are black. The tail has twelve feathers; long in the middle, and gradually shortening toward the sides. The legs and feet are of a yellowish flesh-colour."

Brisson has figured the Wax-Bill under the name of the Senegal Rayé.

Edwards adds, that the bird now figured, which was brought from the East-Indies by John Gideon Loten, Esq. F. R. S. is lodged in the British Museum; that this specimen differs much from the bird which he had formerly figured; that he takes them to be Male and Female; and that, by comparing the two descriptions, the difference may be seen.

That description, therefore, we shall lay before our readers, in Edwards's own words—

"This

"This beautiful little bird has the middle feathers of the tail longer than those of the sides; which particularity is not, I believe, to be found among small birds that eat seeds, in this part of the world, though it be common to Butcher-Birds. The bill is of a moderate bigness, for a hard-billed bird; and of a fine red colour, like sealing-wax: which, I suppose, gave the bird it's name. From the angle of the mouth, there passes a long red spot; broad in the middle, and ending in a point about the place of the ear: in the middle of this spot, is placed the eye; which is black. The top of the head, under side of the neck, the back, and upper side of the wings and tail, are of a dark dusky brown colour. The sides of the head, beneath the red marks, are whitish; and the breast becomes, gradually, of a light ash-colour. The sides of the belly; the thighs; and the coverts of the tail, both above and beneath; are, also, of a light-brownish ash-colour. The lower part of the breast, and middle of the belly, is finely stained with a largish red spot; which gradually loses itself in the brownish ash-colour that borders it all round. All the brown feathers in this bird, on

it's

it's upper side, on the sides of the belly, &c. are transversely marked with five lines of a darker colour. It's toes stand, three forwards, and three backwards, as in most other small birds, and are all of a dusky colour."

He adds, that he made his drawing from the living bird, which was the property of George Shelvocke, Esq. to whom it was sent, with many others, from Lisbon; that it was brought to Lisbon, from the East Indies; and that, he believes, it was never, till then, either figured or described.

Buffon says—"I have been assured, that the Female is exactly like the Male. But," he adds, "the difference which I have myself observed, in many individuals, and those which have been noticed by others, create some doubts of the perfect similarity of the sexes. I have seen several, which came from the Cape: in some of which, the upper part of the body was more or less of a deep brown, and the under more or less reddish; in others, the upper part of the head had no rays. In that last figured by Edwards, the rays consisted of two browns,

browns, and the coverts beneath the tail were not black: in the former, the rays of the under part of the body are spread on a brown ground; and not only the lower coverts of the tail are black, as in that described by Brisson, but the lower belly is of the same colour. The subject observed by Brisson came from Senegal. The two which Edwards examined were brought from the East Indies; and most of those which I have seen were brought from the Cape of Good Hope. Among so many differences of the plumage remarked between these, some must depend on the distinction of sex. The average length of these birds is about four inches and a half. The bill is three or four lines. The alar extent is six inches; and the tail, which is unequally tapered, and composed of twelve quills, is two inches long.

AROMATIC SHRUB.

Published January 1.1802 by Harrison & Co. West Margate Street.

AROMATIC SHRUB,

OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

THIS curious shrub is represented, by the figure annexed, as somewhat more than half the natural size. It is an exact copy from the original drawing made in New South Wales; and we have, as usual, to lament the paucity of information by which it was accompanied. It was, however, underwritten as follows—

"This cropped shrub is aromatic; but tastes acrid, and disagreeable. It's present state, which exhibits the calyx in perfection, is that in which it appears during the months of September and October."

PERUVIAN BAT.

Published by Sol. Wm. Varnum & Proctor

PERUVIAN BAT.

THIS Bat is properly, the Vespertilio Leporinus, or Hare-Lipped Bat, of the Linnæan system; as agreed, at present, by Dr. Gmelin, and all the principal naturalists: though Linnæus himself, in his twelfth edition of the Systema Naturæ, placed it in a distinct genus, called Noctilio.

In Feuillé's Observations on Peru, it is denominated the Bat from the Valley of Ylo; but Pennant, and other English naturalists, have called it the Peruvian Bat. As the Hare-Lip does not appear to be absolutely confined to this species of the Bat, we have not adopted the Linnæan appellation; and, were we disposed lightly to disturb any of the more established names, in natural history, we should incline to call it the Ylo Bat, rather than even the Peruvian; since there are, in Peru, other species of Bats. This last reason operates still more forcibly against calling it, after Seba and others, the American Bat.

Pennant describes this Peruvian Bat, as having

having a head somewhat resembling that of a Pug Dog. Large, straight ears; sharp at the ends, and pointing forwards. Two canine teeth, and two small cutting-teeth between each, in each jaw. The tail is inclosed in the membrane which joins to each hind-leg; and is, likewise, supported by two long cartilaginous ligaments, involved in the membrane. The colour of the fur is an iron-grey; but erroneously coloured by Schreber, who represents it of a straw-colour. The body is equal in size to that of a small Rat; the extent of the wings is two feet five inches.

"Linnæus," says Pennant, "carried away by love of system, places this, on account of it's having only two cutting-teeth in each jaw, among the Glires, next to the Squirrels, under the name of Noctilio Americanus: but, such is the variety, in the numbers and disposition of the teeth, among the animals of this genus, that he might have formed out of it almost as many genera as there are species. As the Bats, however, have other such striking characters; it is unnecessary to have recourse to the more latent marks, to form it's definition.

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The same may be said of several other animals."

Pennant also describes a variety of the Peruvian Bat; which, he observes, "has a large head, and hanging lips, like the chaps of a Mastiff. The nose is bilobated; the upper lip divided; and the ears are straight, long, narrow, and sharp-pointed. The teeth are like the former. The tail is short; yet a few joints of it stand out of the membrane, which extends far beyond it: it is angular, and ends in a point. The claws of the hind-feet are large, hooked, and compressed sideways. The membranes of the wings are dusky, and very thin. The fur, on the head and back, is brown; that on the belly, cinereous. The length of this Bat is about five inches. These Bats inhabit Peru, and the Musquito shore."

According to Seba, there is, in the legs of the Peruvian Bat, an extraordinary conformation: the tibia, and fibula, as he describes them, being placed separately one from the other, and each invested by it's own distinct hairy skin. These, however, are generally thought to be nothing more than the two cartilaginous

tilaginous ligaments noticed by Pennant. It is said to live on fruits; but we apprehend that, like the Bats in general, it subsists chiefly on Moths, and other nocturnal insects; without being averse to almost any other species of food which chance may throw in it's way.

Were we engaged in the task of erecting, arranging, or even regulating, a systematic history of the animal world; we should, probably, make one grand division of all the Winged Quadrupeds: including, not only the whole of the Bats; but, also, the Flying Squirrels, &c. and should afterwards endeavour to marshal them into such subdivisions as might, on a minute investigation of their other similitudes, appear least exceptionable. To expect an exact coincidence, in so great a variety of animals, most of which we may be permitted to call mis-shapen productions of nature, would be the height of absurdity.

"Though all beings," says Buffon, "are equally perfect in themselves, since they proceed from the hands of the same Creator; yet, in relation to man, some beings are more accomplished, and others seem to be imperfect

or deformed. Of the former kind, are all those whose figures appear to us agreeable and compleat; because all their parts and members are proportioned, all their movements and functions, are easy and natural. The latter kind of beings, which to us have a hideous aspect, comprehends all those whose qualities are noxious to man, whose nature is uncommon, and whose form differs from the ordinary figures which conveyed our primary sensations, and from which we derived those ideas that serve as models to our judgment. The head of a man, on the neck of a horse; and it's body covered with feathers, and terminating in the tail of a Fish: represents a picture of enormous deformity; for no other reason, than because it unites what Nature has placed at the greatest distance. An animal, like the Bat, which is half a Quadruped, and half a Bird—and which, on the whole, is neither the one nor the other—must be a monstrous being: because, by uniting the attributes of two opposite genera, it resembles none of those models which are presented to us in the great classes of Nature. It is an imperfect Quadruped, and a still more imperfect Bird. A

Quadruped,

Quadruped, should have four feet; and a Bird, should have feathers and wings. In the Bat, the fore-feet, though they serve the animal for the double purpose of flying and of trailing it's body on the ground, are neither wings nor feet. They are deformed extremities, the bones of which are enormously lengthened; and they are united by a membrane, which is neither covered with feathers nor with hair. They are a species of pinions, or winged paws, in which we see only a claw of an inch in length: and the other four long toes must act along with the former; for they have no proper movements, or separate functions. They are a kind of hands; ten times larger than the feet, and four times larger than the body, of the animal. In short, they are parts which have rather the air of caprice, than of a regular production. This membrane covers the arm; forms the wings, or hands, of the animal; unites with the skin of the body: and, at the same time, surrounds the legs, and even the tail; which, by this whimsical conjunction, becomes, in some measure, one of the toes. To these dissimilarities, and disproportions, of the body, and it's members, may be added

added the deformities of the head; which are, often, much greater. In some species, the nose is hardly visible; and the eyes are sunk near the ear, and confounded with the cheeks: in others, the ears are as long as the body; or the face is twisted into the form of a Horse-shoe, and the nose turned up like a Cock's comb. All of them have small, obscure, covered eyes; a nose, or rather nostrils, ill-formed; and a mouth, extending from ear to ear. They all, likewise, endeavour to conceal themselves; fly the light; and inhabit dark places only, from which they never go out except during the night: they return, at break of day, and fasten themselves against the walls. Their motion in the air is rather a desultory fluttering, than flying, which they execute very aukwardly. With difficulty they raise themselves from the earth, and never fly to any great height. They quicken, relax, or direct their flight, in a manner the most bungling and imperfect. Their flight is neither rapid, nor direct; but consists of quick vibrations, in an oblique and winding direction. They fail not, however, in passing, to seize Flies; Gnats; and, particularly, Moths, which fly during the

night

night only. These they swallow almost entire; and we find, in their excrements, portions of wings, and other dry and indigestible parts of Moths.

"Bats," concludes Buffon, "are real Quadrupeds. Except the faculty of flying, they have nothing in common with Birds: but, as the action of flying implies great strength in the upper and interior parts of the body, the Bats have their pectoral muscles much stronger, and more fleshy, than those of Quadrupeds; and, in this, they have an affinity to the Birds. They differ from Birds, however, in every other part of their structure, both external and internal. Like the Quadrupeds, they are viviparous; have teeth, and paps; and suckle their young. They are said to bring forth only two at a time; and to carry them, even when flying."

From these general remarks on Bats, the reader may perceive, that they seem to separate the Quadrupeds from the Birds, in a manner very similar to that by which the Seals divide the Quadrupeds from the Fishes.

LESSER KING BIRD OF PARADISE.

THE beautiful bird, which we have here figured, from Edwards, under the appellation of the Lesser King Bird of Paradise, is mentioned in our former account of Sonnerat's King Bird of Paradise: this being described as only the size of the Chaffinch, while that of Sonnerat is as large as a Blackbird. Edwards, however, calls the present small bird, "the supposed King of the Greater Birds of Paradise!"

As we have copied, on a smaller scale, the figure of Edwards, which was exactly the size of the living bird, we shall transcribe his entire description—

"This bird," he says, "is figured as near it's natural bigness as I could draw it. I believe that, comparatively, it may be about the size of a Chaffinch: it's bill longer; and it's legs stronger, in proportion. It has a very short tail; the wings, when closed, reaching a good way beyond it. The bill is pretty straight, and something slender: it is of a yellow colour;

about

about an inch long, if measured to the slits or angles of the mouth. The upper mandible of the bill is half-way covered with feathers like velvet, of an orange-colour. The head is covered with plush-like feathers; which is a characteristic of this genus: the neck, back, and upper side of the wings and tail, have feathers of the common make; all, from head to tail, of a full red colour, a little inclining to chesnut, beautifully glossy. The under or forward part of the neck, has a mixture of black, blended with the red; like the black throat of a Cock-Sparrow. The insides of the greater feathers of the wings, are of a reddish yellow, lighter than they are above; the inner covert-feathers of the wings, are white; and the underside of the tail, is dusky. Under each wing, there is a remarkable tuft of feathers; each consisting of seven or eight in number; of a dark blackish-brown colour, with very fine, glossy, green tips; and each feather having a transverse bar, or line, of a whitish colour, parting the green tip from the dusky part of the feather. I have extended the wings, in this figure, the better to shew these feathers. It has, on the breast, a half-moon-like mark, the points, or horns, pointing upwards: of a dar

dark green colour, shining with a bright gloss, like the necks of Mallards. This spot is divided from the neck by a yellowish line; which passes, transversely, immediately above it. The belly, thighs, and coverts under the tail, are white; though the lower parts of the thighs, about the knees, are a little brownish. From the upper side of the middle of the tail, there spring two stiff, naked, stems of feathers; about six inches long, of a dark-brown colour; though, toward their points, they are beset, on one side, with webs, and curled round, so as to form circular terminations, flat, and shining with a changeable colour, which partakes of red and green. The legs are pretty long, and strong. It has four toes, standing after the usual manner, all of a dark-brown colour. The claws are strong, and of a light horn-colour."

Edwards adds—"All these birds are brought to us from some part or other of the East-Indies; but, chiefly, by report, from the Spice-Islands, possessed by the Hollanders. That, from which this draught was taken, was a very perfect dried bird, preserved in the Museum of the Royal Society, London, in the year 1742. This bird, I believe, is described by our countryman

tryman Mr. Willughby, in his History of Birds: but, finding my subject differ a good deal from his description, I imagine this to be more perfect; and, as the figure in Willughby is very small, and meanly designed, I hope this will be more acceptable. I find, also, a figure of this bird, in a Natural History published at Amsterdam by Albert Seba, which varies a little from this: but, as that is a great and very expensive work, and not like to fall into the hands of many of our countrymen, it has not deterred me from giving the public this figure and description. I follow Willughby, in giving a royal title to this bird; though, I think, the Greater Bird of Paradise, before described, merits that honour better."

Such is the history and description of this bird, as given by Edwards. It appears to be the Paradisea Regia, of the Linnæan system; the Manucodiata Minor, of Brisson; the King's Bird, of Forrest; the Rex Avium Paradisearum, or King Paradise Bird, of Seba, Clusius, Latham, &c. and the Manucode, of Buffon.

"I adopt this name," says the great French naturalist, "from the Indian appellation Manucodiata,

nucodiata, which signifies "Bird of God." It is usually called the King of the Birds of Paradise; but, this appellation is drawn from fabulous accounts. Clusius was informed by the mariners, from a tradition which prevailed in the East, that each of the two species of the Birds of Paradise had it's leader, whose imperial mandates were received with submissive obedience by a numerous train of subjects: and, that his Majesty always flew above the flock; and issued orders for inspecting and tasting the springs, where they might drink with safety, &c. This ridiculous fable consoles Nieremberg for the loss of the multitude of vulgar opinions which Clusius has erased from the history of birds; and this, too, may serve to fix our idea of that compiler's judgment."

Buffon remarks, that the people of India sometimes take whole flocks of birds, by poisoning the fountains. "The King Bird of Paradise," he adds, "much resembles the rest. Like them, his head is small; his eyes, still smaller, are placed near the corner of the opening of the bill; his feet are pretty long, and stout, and the colours of his plumage are glossy. The two filaments of his tail, too, are nearly similar: except,

except, that they are shorter; and their extremity, which is furnished with webs, forms a curl, by rolling into itself, and is ornamented with spangles, resembling, in miniature, those of the Peacock. He also has, beneath the wing, on each side, a bunch of seven or eight feathers: which are longer than in most birds, but not so long as those of the Bird of Paradise; and of a different shape, for they are edged through their whole extent with webs of adhering filaments. The Manucode is smaller: the bill white; and long, in proportion. The wings are, also, longer; the tail is shorter; and, the nostrils are covered with feathers.

"Clusius counted only thirteen quills, in each wing, and seven or eight in the tail: but he did not consider that, in a dried specimen, these might not be compleat. The same author remarks, as a singularity, that, in some, the two filaments of the tail cross each other; though this might often happen from accident: considering their flexibility, and their length."

EMBROIDERED FLOWER.

Published July 31. 1802. by Harrison & Co. Wood. Newgate Street.

EMBROIDERED FLOWER,

OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

HAVING received the original drawing, from which the annexed figure is engraved, without any name or description, we have given it the appellation, or epithet, of Embroidered.

This may, perhaps, be sufficient to distinguish it; at least, for the present. The drawing affords not any sufficient marks of generical character, to afford the Botanist an opportunity of deciding positively on it's class in scientific arrangement. The slight idea which it seems to present, in form and colouring, of having an edging, or border, like gold-lace, or embroidery, has induced us to give it the name of the Embroidered Flower of New South Wales.

The drawing is reduced to about half the natural size.

BUFFALO.

BUFFALO.

THE Buffalo, or Bos Bubalus of Linnæus, is characterised, in the Systema Naturæ, as having flat horns, which are first extended outwards, then turned upwards, and bent inwards at the ends. It is the Buffelus, of Aldrovandus, and of Klein; the Buffalus, of Pallas; the Taurelephas, of Ludolfus; the Buffelochsen, of Kolben; the Buffle, of Buffon; and the Buffalo, of Zimmerman, of Pennant, and of all the modern English naturalists.

"The Buffalo," says Buffon, "though now common in Greece, and domesticated in Italy, was unknown both to the ancient Greeks and Romans; for, it has no name in the languages of these people. Even the word Buffalo, indicates a foreign origin; since it has no root, either in Greek or Latin. In short, this animal is a native of the warm regions of Africa and the Indies; and was not transported, and naturalized in Italy, till about the seventh century. The moderns have improperly applied to it the name Bubalus: which, indeed,

deed, denotes an African animal, but very different from the Buffalo; as might be shewn, from many passages of ancient authors. Aristotle, when treating of the Oxen, mentions not the Common Ox; but only remarks that, among the Arachotæ, in India, there are Wild Oxen, which differ from the domestic kind as much as the the Wild Boar differs from the Common Hog."

Notwithstanding these remarks of Buffon, which he extended to a great length; Mr. Pennant has asserted, with considerable appearance of truth, "that Aristotle describes Buffaloes very well, under the title of Wild Oxen, among the Arachotæ, in the northern part of India, bordering on Persia. He gives them great strength, a black-colour, and horns bending upwards more than those of the common kind."

Pliny, too, under the name Bos Indicus, is supposed to refer to a large breed of this species; which, he says, is as tall as a Camel, with horns extending four feet between tip and tip.

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The Buffalo, so nearly resembles the Common Ox, that it must necessarily, to a superficial observer, seem a mere variety of that species. They are, however, it is universally agreed, quite different species. "Their natures," Buffon asserts, "are more remote from each other, than those of the Horse and the Ass. They even seem to have a mutual antipathy: for," says he, "we are assured, that Cows will not suckle young Buffaloes; and, that female Buffaloes refuse to suckle Calves. The disposition of the Buffalo is more obstinate and untractable than that of the Ox. He is less obedient, more violent, and subject to humours more frequent and more impetuous. All his habits are gross, and brutal. Next to the Hog, he is the dirtiest of domestic animals: for, nothing is more difficult, than to dress and keep him clean. His figure is gross, and forbidding. His aspect is wild, and stupid. He stretches out his neck in an aukward, ignoble manner; and carries his head so ungracefully, that it generally hangs down toward the ground. He bellows hideously; and, with a stronger and deeper tone than that of the Bull. He has meagre limbs,

a naked

a naked tail, a dark countenance; and a skin as black as his hair. He differs chiefly from the Ox, by this black colour of his skin. It appears under the hair, which is not close. His body is shorter and thicker than that of the Ox; his legs are longer; his head is, proportionably, smaller; his horns are less round, being compressed, and of a black colour; and he has a tuft of curled hair on his forehead. His skin is thick and harder than that of the Ox. His flesh is black, and hard; and has not only a bad taste, but a most disagreeable odour. The milk of the Buffalo is not so good as that of the Cow; but she yields it in much greater abundance. Some of them give, daily, twenty-two pints of milk. The flesh of young Buffaloes, though fed with milk, is not good. The skin is of more value, than the rest of the animal; the tongue of which is, alone, good for eating. The skin is solid, pretty flexible, and almost impenetrable. As these animals are larger and stronger than Oxen, they are employed with advantage in different kinds of labour. They are made to draw, and not to carry burdens. They are directed, and restrained, by means of a ring passed through the

the nose. Two Buffaloes yoked, or rather chained, to a carriage, draw as much as four strong horses. As they carry their neck and head low, the whole weight of the body is employed in drawing; and their mass much surpasses that of a labouring horse. The female brings forth but one at a birth: and goes with young about twelve months; which is a still farther proof of the difference of their species from that of the Cow, whose time of gestation is only nine months. In Africa, and India, there are vast quantities of Wild Buffaloes, which frequent the banks of rivers, and extensive meadows. These Wild Buffaloes go in herds, and make great havoc in the cultivated fields. They never attack Man, unless when they are wounded: but are, then, extremely dangerous; for they run straight on the enemy, overturn him, and trample him under their feet. They are, however, afraid of fire; and abhor a red colour. The Buffalo, like all the large animals of warm climates, is fond of wallowing and even remaining in the water. He swims well, and boldly crosses the most rapid rivers. As his legs are longer than those of the Ox, he runs more swiftly. The Negroes

groes of Guinea, and the Indians of Malabar, where the Buffaloes are very numerous, are fond of hunting them. They never attack these animals openly: but watch for them, on the tops of trees; or lie hid in thickets, through which the Buffaloes cannot pass, on account of their horns. These people esteem the flesh of the Buffalo: and they draw great profits from his skin, and horns; which are harder, and better, than those of the Ox."

Pennant tells us, that Buffaloes, are used, in Italy, as well as in India, and Africa, for the dairy, and draught; and that, in some parts of India, they are also used for the saddle.

The Buffalo, in general, appears to be of an almost uniform blackish colour; with the hair on the top of the forehead, and that at the tip of the tail, and even on the insides of the limbs, sometimes a yellowish white: Travellers have, indeed, occasionally met with them white, grey, and reddish. At the Cape of Good Hope, their common colour is said to be a dark red, with intermixtures of black. The Abyssinian Buffaloes are twice the size of our largest Oxen;

Oxen; and having, also, naked and black skins, like the Elephant, they are there called Elephant-Bulls.

Sonini informs us, that the Buffalo is an acquisition of the modern Egyptians, who received it from Persia. He describes these Egyptian Buffaloes as partaking of the very remarkable gentleness of other domestic animals, and only retaining a few sudden and occasional caprices: nor did he ever observe that the red colour, so generally worn in the dresses of that country, at all affected them. Such is their attachment to water, that he has seen them remain in it the whole day.

PURPLE INDIAN CREEPER.

Published Oct.1 1802. by Harrison & Co. No.18. Newgate Street.

PURPLE INDIAN CREEPER.

THIS beautiful bird, which was first figured by Edwards, under the name of the Purple Indian Creeper, appears to be the Certhia Chalybea, of the Linnæn system. At least, as Buffon says, Brisson, Linnæus, Gmelin, and Latham, agree to refer it to that bird: which Brisson calls, the Certhia Torquata of the Cape of Good Hope; Latham, the Collared Creeper; and Buffon, the Collared Soui-Manga. But Buffon conceives, that Edwards's Purple Indian Creeper is, in fact, the Purple Soui-Manga: and his reasoning, on the subject, appears worth attending to—"If," says he, in describing the Purple Soui-Manga, "this bird had been of a varying gold-green on the head, and under the throat; and red, instead of green and yellow, on the breast; it would have been almost exactly like the Red-Breasted Violet Soui-Manga: or, at least, it would have been more analogous than the Collared Soui-Manga, which has not a shade of purple in it's plumage. I cannot conceive," he adds, "why Brisson considers the latter, and the

the Purple Creeper of Edwards, as precisely the same, only with different names."

Leaving the systematic naturalists to reconcile these jarring opinions, and apparent improprieties, we shall proceed to transcribe the account with which Edwards accompanied his figure of this bird: first premising, that Edwards gave two figures, which he supposed to be Male and Female of the same species; and that we, who adopt the same opinion, have thought the former bird sufficient for our purpose.

"From their near resemblance," says Edwards, "I take them to be male and female of the same species. The bird which I take to be the Cock, has the bill black, pretty long, arched, not much tapering from the base to the point, but stronger than that of the other bird. The head, neck, back, rump, and covert-feathers of the wings, are of a dark blueish purple colour. The tail is black. The belly, thighs, covert-feathers under the tail, and the quill feathers of the wings, are of a dusky brown. The inside of the wings, and the

the under-side of the tail, are of a dark ash-colour. The breast is tinged with green; and has, on each side, a spot of yellow, or gold-coloured, feathers, which fall partly over the wings when they are closed. The legs and feet are black.

"The Hen bird, which is smaller, differs in nothing, from the Cock, as to the plumage: except that the belly, thighs, and covert-feathers, under the tail, are of the same blueish purple as the upper side; and, that it wants the green spot across the middle of the breast.

"These birds," adds Edwards, "are of a particular class: differing from the Humming-Bird, in having bills very much bowed down; and, in having their legs much longer. But, they have the same sort of tongue as the Humming-Bird; dividing, at it's ends, into several filaments: so that, I suppose, they suck in the same manner; taking up the honey, or moisture, out of flowers, by means of their long tongues, which are so well contrived for that purpose. The Humming-Bird, properly so called, is found only in America; but this tribe

tribe is found in America, and in the Eaſt Indies. These birds are in the collection of Mr. James Leman, at the College of Physicians, London. I have discovered that they are natives of Bengal, in the East Indies; by means of some drawings of birds in colours, which were sent from thence, to the late learned and worthy encourager of sciences, Dr. Richard Mead."

In a note to Buffon's account of the Purple Soui-Manga—the whole of which we have already given, with this sole exception—he remarks, that "this author," meaning Edwards, "says that the Purple Indian Creeper has the tongue of the Colibri, or Humming-Bird; that is, divided, at the tip, into many filaments. Edwards seems, therefore, not to have been well acquainted with the true structure of the tongue of the Colibri."

It has occurred to us, that this filamentary structure of the tongue, bears some not very distant analogy to that of the Ant-Eaters: and, hence, may not only serve to extract the honey of flowers; but, it seems equally probable

bable, such minute insects, also, as may be found to lurk concealed among the bloom.

By the name Soui-Manga, which is the native appellation at Madagascar, Buffon describes all the foreign birds of the Old Continent, which are related to the Creepers: as he does those of the New Continent, which bear some analogy to the Creepers, but whose habits and œconomy are very different, by the Indian appellation Guit-Guit. "In general," says he, "the Creepers, and Soui-Mangas, have their bill proportionably longer than the Guit-Guits, and their plumage at least as beautiful, and even equal to that of the most brilliant of the Humming-Birds. The colours are the softest, the richest, the most dazzling: all the tints of green, of blue, of orange, of red, of purple; heightened by the contrast of various shades of brown and glossy black. We cannot enough admire the glow of these colours, their sparkling lustre, their endless variety, even in the dried specimens which decorate our cabinets. Nature would seem to have formed the feathers of precious stones; of the ruby, of the emerald, the amethyst, and the topaz.

topaz. How enchanting, could we view the birds themselves! their plumage in all it's freshness; animated by the breath of life, embellished by all that dazzles in the magic of the prism; changing it's reflections, with each quick movement; and darting new colours, or new flames. To study nature in her minute, as in her grand productions; we ought to contemplate her in the state of freedom, before the hand of man has interfered!

"There are," concludes Buffon, "many Soui-Mangas living with the Dutch bird-catchers at the Cape of Good Hope. The only food offered, is sugared water: the Flies, which abound in that climate, and torment Dutch cleanliness, supply the rest. These birds are alert in seizing them; and none escape, that enter their volery. This additional food seems necessary to their support: for they soon die on board ships, where there are fewer insects. The Viscount Querhoënt, to whom we are indebted for these remarks, could never keep them alive above three weeks."

SINGLE CORNUCOPIA FLOWER.

Published Oct.1.1802, by Harrison & Co. Wood Newgate Street.

SINGLE CORNUCOPIA FLOWER,

OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

THIS beautiful flower is evidently of the same species as that which we formerly figured under the temporary appellation of the Cornucopia Flower of New South Wales. The colours, however, are widely different, in the two specimens with which we have been favoured: and, as the first of them had two branches, or horns, proceeding from the same stem, and the present has only a single one, we have ventured to call it, merely for the sake of distinction, the Single Cornucopia Flower of New South Wales.

Like the former, we received the drawing from that country; without any information whatever, as to it's native name, it's culture, or it's qualities.

FALLOW DEER.

Published April 1, 1803, by Harrison & Co. No. 103, Newgate Street.

FALLOW DEER.

THIS beautiful animal is the Cervus Dama, of Linnæus; the Dama Vulgaris, of Aldrovandus, and of Gesner; the Cervus Platyceros, of Ray; the Cervus Palmatus, of Klein; the Dain, of Buffon; the Cervus Dama Vulgaris, or Common Fallow Deer, of Brisson; and the Fallow Deer, of Pennant, and other British naturalists.

The account given by Pennant, of the Fallow Deer, is exceedingly brief. "The horns," he tells us, "are palmated at their ends, pointing a little forward, and branched on the hinder side: there are two sharp and slender brow antlers; and, above them, two small slender branches. The colour of this Deer is various: reddish, deep brown, white, and spotted. It is not so universal as the Stag; and rare, in France and Germany. It is found wild in the woods of Lithuania and Moldavia, in Greece, the Holy Land, and the North of China. In great abundance, in England: but, except on

on a few chaces, is at present confined in parks."

Buffon has treated this article more at large —" No species of animals," says he, " makes so near an approach to another, as the Fallow Deer to that of the Stag: but, though their similarity be great in every respect, they fly from each other; never intermix; and, of course, give rise to no intermediate race. It is even rare to find Fallow Deer in a country much frequented by Stags, unless they are industriously transported thither. Their nature seems to be less rustic and robust than that of the Stag; and they are, likewise, less common in the forests. They are kept in parks, where they may be said to be half domesticated. More of them are reared in England than in any other country of Europe; and the English are extremely fond of their venison. The dogs, also, prefer the flesh of this Deer to that of all other animals; and, after they have once eat of it, they are extremely apt, in the chase of the Stag, or Roe Deer, to change their course, when they perceive the scent of the Fallow Deer. In some provinces of France, and in the

the neighbourhood of Paris, there are Fallow Deer; so, also, in Spain and in Germany. Those of America were, probably, transported from Europe. It seems to be an animal peculiar to the temperate climates: for, there are none in Russia; and they are seldom met with in Sweden, or other northern countries.

"As the Fallow Deer is less savage, more delicate, and approaches nearer to the domestic state, than the Stag, it is also subject to a greater number of varieties. Beside the Common and the White Fallow Deer, there are several other varieties. The tail of the Common Fallow Deer is longer than that of the Stag, and it's hair is brighter. The horns of the Fallow Deer shed, like those of the Stag; but they fall off later, and are renewed nearly at the same time. Their rutting season arrives fifteen days, or three weeks, after that of the Stag. The Males, then, bellow frequently; but, with a low and interrupted voice. They are not so furious as the Stag, nor exhaust themselves by rutting. They never depart from their own country, in quest of Females; but they dispute, and fight, for the possession of their mistresses. They associate in

in herds, which almost always keep together. When there is a great number in one park, they generally form themselves into two distinct troops; which soon become hostile, because they both wish to occupy the same part of the inclosure. Each of these troops has it's own chief, who marches foremost; and, he is always the oldest and strongest of the flock. The others follow him; and the whole draw up, in order of battle, to force the other troop from the best pasture. The order with which these combats are conducted is very singular. They make regular attacks, fight with courage, mutually support each other, and never think themselves vanquished by a single check; for the battle is daily renewed, till the weaker are compleatly defeated, and obliged to remain in the worst pasture. They love elevated and hilly countries. When chased, they do not run out like the Stag; but double, and endeavour to conceal themselves from the Dogs, by artifice, and by substituting another animal in their place. However, when fatigued, and heated, they take the water; but never attempt to cross such extensive rivers as the Stag. Thus, between the chase of the Fallow Deer,

and

and Stag, there is no material difference. Their knowledge and instincts, their shifts and doublings, are the same; only, they are more frequently practised by the Fallow Deer. As he is less enterprising, and runs not so far before the Dogs, he has oftener occasion to change or substitute another in his place, to double, return upon his former tracts, &c. which renders the hunting of the Fallow Deer more subject to inconveniences than that of the Stag. Besides, as he is smaller and lighter, the impressions of his feet on the ground are slighter, and the branches he knocks off from the trees with his horns are smaller. Hence, the Dogs are less apt to observe the change, or substitution of another animal, and it is more difficult to bring them into the scent when at fault.

"The Fallow Deer is very easily tamed, and eats many substances which are rejected by the Stag. He likewise preserves his fat or venison much better: for, he is not rendered meagre by rutting, though followed by the longest and severest winters; and, he is nearly in the same condition during the whole year. He

browses

browses closer than the Stag; which makes the trees or bushes eat by him more difficult to shoot, than those eat by the Stag. The young Fallow Deer eat quicker, and with more avidity, than the old. They ruminate. They search for the females, in the second year: and attach not themselves to one, like the Roe Buck; but love variety, like the Stag. The Female goes with young eight months and some days. Like the Hind, she produces one: sometimes, two; and, very rarely, three Fawns. They are capable of engendering, and producing, from the age of two to fifteen or sixteen years. The greatest difference between the Stag and Fallow Deer consists in the duration of their lives. The Stag lives thirty-five or forty years; the Fallow Deer, only about twenty. As they are smaller, it is probable that their growth is sooner accomplished than that of the Stag: because, in all animals, the duration of life is proportioned to the time of growing, and not to the time of gestation; for, here, the time of gestation is the same. Besides, in other species, as that of the ox, though the time of gestation be long, the duration of life is short. Of course, we ought not to measure the duration

tion of life by the time of gestation, but by that of the growth; reckoning, from the birth, nearly to the full expansion of the body."

Dr. Goldsmith says, that the Fallow Deer comes to perfection at three years of age, and lives till sixteen; whereas the Stag does not come to perfection till seven, and lives till forty.

As the Fallow Deer, like the Stag, is a beast of chase; hunters have, as usual, invented a number of technical expressions relative to this object of their pursuit. The Buck is, the first year, called a Fawn; the second, a Pricket; the third, a Sorel; the Fourth, a Sore; the fifth a Buck of the first Head; and, the sixth, a Great Buck. The Female has no horns, and is called a Doe. She is named, the first year, like the Buck, a Fawn; but the second, a Tegg.

"As the Buck," says Goldsmith, "is a more delicate animal than the Stag; so, also, is it subject to greater varieties. We have, in England, two varieties of the Fallow Deer, which

which are said to be of foreign origin: the beautiful spotted kind, which is supposed to have been been brought from Bengal; and the very deep brown sort, that are now so common in several parts of this kingdom. These last were introduced, by King James the First, from Norway: for, having observed their hardiness, and that they would endure the winter, even in that severe climate, without fodder, he brought over some of them into Scotland, and disposed of them among his chases. Since that time, they have multiplied in many parts of the British empire; and England is now become more famous for it's venison than any other country in the world. Whatever pains the French have taken to rival us in this particular, the flesh of their Fallow Deer, of which they keep but a few, has neither the fatness nor the flavour of that fed on English pastures."

LONG-TAILED GROUSE.

Published April 1, 1802, by Harrison & Co. No. 6, Newgate Street.

LONG-TAILED GROUSE.

WITH our figure of the Long-Tailed Grouse, which is copied from Edwards, we shall give the account published at the same time by that celebrated ornithologist; and, also, what has since occurred to other naturalists, relative to this bird.

"It is," says Edwards, "of the bigness of a pheasant; or, rather, of the Black Game, called the Heathcock or Grouse with us, of which genus it is a species. This, I was informed, was a Hen: the Cock, my author tells me, is of a blacker colour, and glossy on the neck. There is the same difference between the Cocks and Hens in our Heath Game.

"It has the bill, like that of a domestic Hen, of a black or dusky colour. The head and neck are of a bright reddish brown, variegated with transverse waved dusky lines. Above, and beneath, each eye, and on the under side of the head, the feathers are of a light

light brown, or whitish. The feathers on the back, wings, and tail, are black in their middle parts; indented with a bright brown on their sides, and transversely marked black and brown at their tips: which forms a confused, broken appearance, of black and brown, transversely mixed all over the upper side of the bird. The covert feathers within side of the wings, are dusky and white, mixed in transverse lines. The outward coverts of the wings, and the quill-feathers next the back, have white tips. The prime quills have spots of white along their outer webs: the inner webs of the quills are ash-colour, and without spots. The tail has the two middle feathers longer by near two inches than those next them: they all gradually shorten toward the side-feathers. The three outermost feathers on each side, are white. The breast, from brown, gradually becomes white: as does the belly, the sides under the wing, and the covert-feathers under the tail. The breast is spotted with half-moon-like black spots; but, on the belly, the black spots are shaped like hearts, and extend to the coverts under the tail. The legs are covered with fine feathers, that look like

like hairs; of a whitish brown colour, transversely variegated with dusky lines. The toes and claws are of a dusky blackish colour. Each toe is pectinated on both sides; as are the toes in all this tribe of birds."

To this minute description of the individual bird figured, Edwards subjoins the following particulars; which, together, comprehend the whole of his account.

"This bird," concludes Edwards, "was brought, by Mr. Isham, from Hudson's Bay, where it is called a Pheasant: it's long tail, and colour, agreeing very well with our Hen Pheasant; and the Male of this bird may, perhaps, resemble the Cock Pheasant as nearly. I suppose, when living, it had a red space above it's eyes, in form of eye-brows, as all of this genus have: but, as I could not make them plain in the dried bird, I have omitted them in my figure and description. I believe, I may pronounce this bird a non-descript. Dr. Michel, a physician of Virginia, now in England, on seeing my original draught of this bird, says that they have the same in the woods

and

and unfrequented parts of Virginia; and, that the Cock is a stately bird, walking very erect."

It is to be remembered, that Edwards published the above account in the year 1750; that being the date of the third volume, or part, of his Natural History of Birds, from which it is extracted.

In the Linnæan catalogue of subjects figured and described by Edwards, this bird is simply denominated Tetrao: but, on farther reflection, it has since been called, in the Systema Naturæ of Linnæus, with more precision, Tetrao Phasianellus. It is the Sharp-Tailed Grouse, of Pennant; and the Long-Tailed Hazel Grouse, of Buffon.

"This American bird," says Buffon, "which may be called the Long-Tailed Hazel Grouse, has been designed and described, by Edwards, under the name of the Hudson's Bay Heathcock, or Grouse; but appears, to me, more related to the Hazel Grouse. The individual represented in Edwards, is a Female; with

with the size, colour, and long tail, of the Pheasant. The plumage of the Male is of a deeper shining brown, with various reflections near the neck; and he stands very erect, with a bold aspect: differences which are invariable, between the Male and Female, in all birds of this kind. Edwards did not venture to give red eye-brows to this Female; because he only saw a stuffed specimen, in which that character was not sufficiently distinct. The legs were rough: the toes, indented on the edges; and the hind toes very short.

"At Hudson's Bay," adds Buffon, "this bird is called a Pheasant. The long tail, indeed, forms a sort of shade between the Hazel Grouse and the Pheasants. The two middle quills of the tail project two inches farther than the two following on either side; and, thus, gradually shorten. These birds are also found in Virginia, in the woods and the unfrequented parts."

Much of this, which is the whole of Buffon's account, the reader must perceive is merely a transcript of Edwards.

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The following specific character of the Long-Tailed Grouse, or Tetrao Phasianellus, according to the Linnæan system, is subjoined by the English translator of Buffon's Natural History of Birds, with some additional information.

"It's tail is wedge-shaped: it's head, it's neck, and the upper side of its body, are brick-coloured, striped with black. In Hudson's Bay, it lives among the Larch bushes: and feeds on berries, in summer; and on the buds of Larch and Birch, in winter. It lays from nine to thirteen eggs. The cock has a very shrill sort of a crow, not very loud. When disturbed, or on wing, he repeats the sound—"Cuck! Cuck!" and cracks the feathers of his tail. The flesh of these birds, which is grey, is fat and juicy."

CATKIN SHRUB OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Published April 1, 1803 by J. Harrison & Co. No. 108 Newgate Street.

CATKIN SHRUB, OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE flowering shrub represented in the figure annexed, has been reduced to about one half the size of the original drawing, which was an exact copy from nature.

Most of our botanical drawings from New South Wales, we have frequently had occasion to regret, were received with very little more information than the figure conveys.

We are, however, in this particular instance, authentically assured, that it rises to the height of about five feet; that it is found, plentifully, among short underwood free from shade; and, that it's flourishing season is in July and August.